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Teen bowls over Latin music world

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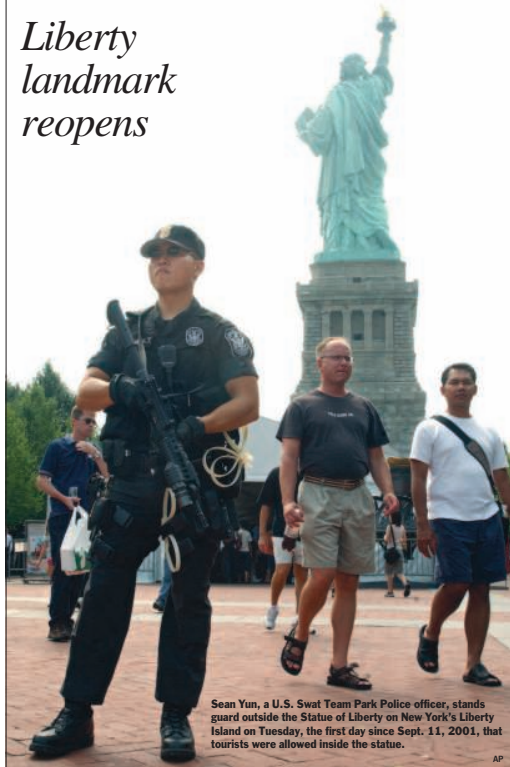
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2004

50¢

Liberty landmark reopens



Sean Yun, a U.S. Swat Team Park Police officer, stands guard outside the Statue of Liberty on New York's Liberty Island on Tuesday, the first day since Sept. 11, 2001, that tourists were allowed inside the statue.

AP

Ridge defends terror moves based on old intel

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Pakistan nabs top al-Qaida agents

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■ U.S., Afghan forces kill 70 militants in border clash Page 4

Former pro wrestler hopes to pin down spot on NFL roster

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Brock Lesnar

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Gary Sinise

Scene on Sunday

Searching for
pro-military stars

Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Aid group's pullout: President Bush lamented the withdrawal from Afghanistan of the Nobel Prize-winning medical relief group *Medecins Sans Frontieres*, saying Monday its doctors and nurses had performed a valuable function.

The group became last week the first major aid agency to pull out of Afghanistan since the U.S. led forces removed the Taliban militia government.

Ten Commandments appeal: A former Alabama chief justice who refused a federal court order to move the Ten Commandments monument claims he was ousted for "professing a belief in God" and is appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Attorneys for Roy Moore argued a judicial ethics panel imposed an "unconstitutional religious test" on Moore when it expelled him in November. It also argued the panel wrongly refused to consider Moore's contention that the court order was illegal.

Yates divorces: The husband of a Texas housewife who drowned the couple's five children in the bathtub has filed for divorce.

Russell Yates' petition was filed in Harris County, where Andrea Yates was convicted of capital murder in the 2001 drowning deaths of three of the couple's children, who ranged in age from 6 months to 7 years. She was not tried in the deaths of the other two.

Farmers market crash: A driver, 86, who plowed his car into a farmers market in California, killing 10 and injuring 63, mistakenly stepped on the gas rather than the brake, federal safety investigators said Tuesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board ruled the probable cause of the July 16, 2003, accident was "unintended acceleration." The accident was made worse when the driver, George Weller, panicked and continued charging through the crowd, investigators said.

La. serial killings trial: Potential jurors were questioned about publicity surrounding a string of murders in Louisiana as the first of four trials facing Derrick Todd Lee, who is suspected of killing seven young women, got under way.

A crowd of more than 260 people, too large for the courthouse in Port Allen, gathered in makeshift courtrooms at a tourism center to be vetted by lawyers. Monday's



Artificially-bred panda: Workers feed cake to giant panda Lou Sheng on its first birthday Monday. Lou Sheng lives at a wildlife center in Xian in China's Shaanxi Province, and is Shaanxi's first artificially bred giant panda.

proceedings yielded more dismissals than potential panelists. Jury selection resumed Tuesday morning.

Military

Grenade attack trial delay: A judge told lawyers for a 101st Airborne Division soldier charged with killing officers in a grenade attack as the Iraq invasion unfolded to decide this week if they want a delay in the October trial date.

Sgt. Hasan Akbar is now scheduled to go on trial Oct. 25 at Fort Bragg, N.C. He faces a death penalty if convicted of premeditated murder.

World

Accused Army deserter: U.S. Army officials in South Korea plan to send a military lawyer to meet with accused U.S. Army deserter Charles Robert Jenkins shortly in Japan, an official said Tuesday.

The U.S. military has refrained from formally requesting custody of Jenkins since he arrived at a Tokyo hospital last month. But Washington says it intends to bring him to justice, as soon as he is physically able,

for allegedly abandoning his South Korean post in 1965 and defecting to North Korea.

Abu Sayaf hostage: A former American hostage who returned to the Philippines to testify against her Muslim rebel captors told a court the Abu Sayaf guerrillas refused to release her and her husband despite a ransom being paid.

Missionary Gracia Burnham, from Wichita, Kan., testified at a local court Thursday, but because of security reasons journalists were allowed only Monday to monitor the audio and video recordings of her appearance, during which she relived a yearlong nightmare in southern Philippine jungles.

War on terrorism

Saddam's interrogation: The interrogation of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein has stopped until he appoints lawyers, the director of the Iraqi Special Tribunal said in remarks published Tuesday.

Salem Chalabi said the last time he saw Saddam, he told him to appoint an Iraqi lawyer, who could then can appoint foreign lawyers.

Photo and stories from wire reports

Correction

A map that ran with Thursday's Quick Trip to Schönbuch Park near Aschaffenburg, Germany, was incorrect. Here is the correct map:



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Access Equals Freedom

Pakistan nabs 2 'high-level' terror suspects

By PAUL HAVEN

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A breathtaking sweep against al-Qaida's vast web of operatives widened Tuesday, with Pakistan announcing the arrests of two "high-level" al-Qaida terrorists, including one with a multimillion dollar U.S. bounty on his head.

In all, at least six suspects were taken into custody, among them a policeman accused of passing information to militants, a Syrian nabbed at a bus stop, and a man arrested trying to leave the country with suspicious documents, officials said.

Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said the arrests of two men of African origin in eastern Punjab province constituted a major break, just days after intelligence agents swooped down on Ahmed Khalifa Ghailani, a Tanzanian wanted for the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa.

"In addition to Ahmed Khalifa Ghailani, whose bounty was \$25 million, we have captured another most wanted suspect

One of those arrested in sweep had huge U.S. bounty on his head

with a bounty on him running into the millions of dollars," Hayat told a press conference Tuesday. He said both men were of African origin but refused to name them.

Four Egyptians and a Libyan on the FBI's list of 22 most wanted terrorists are believed to be in Pakistan or Afghanistan, but it is not clear if they were among those captured. Each of the men has a \$5 million bounty on his head in connection with the embassy bombings. There also are two Kenyans on the list, though they were not believed to be hiding in the region.

Osama bin Laden's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, also is from Egypt.

The two men are believed hiding along the Pakistan-Afghan border, far from Punjab province.

The arrests have come with stunning swiftness since the capture in Karachi on July 13 of an al-Qaida computer expert identified as Mohammad Naem Noor Khan, who was allegedly sending code e-mails to other operatives. An intelligence official said Khan led authorities to Ghailani, who was captured after a 12-hour gun battle in the eastern city of Gujrat Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Monday that Ghailani's computers at home contained e-mails with instructions for attacks in the United States and Britain.

Intelligence gained from Khan's and other arrests was a major factor in U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge's decision to issue a warning Sunday about a possible al-Qaida attack on prominent financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, N.J.

Meanwhile, the police chief who led the raid that netted Ghailani told The Associated Press he received several threatening calls on his cell phone warning him in English and Urdu not to take action against the al-Qaida suspect — even as his men were storming the building.

"They said the people inside the house are serving Islam and any harm to them will be dangerous for you," police chief Raja Munawar Hussain said the caller warned. "They were highly organized terrorists. They were so well informed that they remained in touch with their men [on the outside] during the raid."

Hussain said Ghailani originally identified himself as Tanweer and claimed to be a Pakistani citizen. He said police also had taken into custody a Pakistani who acted as a front man for Ghailani, leasing a car and opening a bank account for him.

Hayat's announcement followed news that at least six al-Qaida suspects have been arrested in separate raids in recent days.

Munir Ahmed in Islamabad and Asif Shahzad in Lahore contributed to this report.

7 Iraqis killed by car bomb, gunmen

Attacks kill four U.S. servicemembers

By SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgent bombers and gunmen killed four Iraqi national guardsmen, a police chief and two policemen Tuesday in the militants' unrelenting attacks against the country's security forces.

Meanwhile, four U.S. servicemembers were killed since Monday by hostile forces, while two others died of nonhostile causes.

The Iraqi national guardsmen were killed when a car bomb hit their post in the Kharmabit region just north of Baqouba. A white pickup truck sped toward the checkpoint and tried to merge with a convoy of U.S. military vehicles, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, a U.S. Army spokesman.

An Army driver forced the truck off the road and the attacker exploded the bomb, he said. Six guardsmen also were wounded, said national guard Lt. Mohammed al-Duleimi.

"The continued targeting of Iraqi security force personnel undermines the security of all Iraqis and will only quicken the resolve of Iraqi security forces to protect a safe and secure environment," O'Brien said.

The blast was part of a campaign of attacks against police and national guardsmen, whom insurgents view as collaborators with U.S. and coalition forces. From April 2003 to May 2004, 710 Iraqi police were killed out of a total force of 130,000 officers, authorities said. A week ago, a truck bomb targeted a police recruiting center in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where hundreds of recruits were gathered. It killed 70 people.

Meanwhile, two U.S. soldiers were killed, and two others

wounded, in Baghdad on Monday night by a makeshift bomb.

Task Force Baghdad soldiers were hit by the bomb around 11 p.m. The wounded soldiers were taken to a nearby military medical facility for treatment.

The names and units of Monday's dead and wounded have not been released pending next of kin notification.

In a third incident, two Marines were killed during fighting near Fallujah.

The Marines, assigned to a unit under the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, were killed while taking part in security and stability operations.

A third Marine died Tuesday from a nonhostile gunshot wound, and another soldier died in a vehicle accident, the military said.

Earlier Tuesday, a roadside bomb in Baghdad's al-Washash district killed Col. Maysad Mohammed Bashir, chief of the al-Mamoun police station, and another officer. Associated Press Television News pictures showed a white police pickup truck, its doors smashed and blood splattered across the driver's seat.

A third officer was wounded, said Zayed Mohammed, a doctor at al-Yarmouk hospital. At the hospital, a bloodied policeman lay on a bed, bandages wrapped around his stomach and leg.

In the northern city of Mosul, attackers fired on a police station, killing one officer and wounding two before fleeing, said police chief Izzat Ibrahim.

In northern Iraq, saboteurs bombed an oil pipeline northeast of the town or Beiji on Tuesday, the latest attack on the nation's infrastructure, the U.S. military said.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.



Relatives of Iraqi National Guard Ryaad Khudayar on Tuesday grieve the death of their relative killed in a car blast outside Baqouba. A car bomb exploded Tuesday at an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint outside the city of Baqouba, killing four guardsmen.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 912 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 677 died as a result of hostile action and 235 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 774 U.S. troops have died — 568 as a result of hostile ac-

tion and 206 of nonhostile causes, according to the Defense Department on Monday.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Anthony J. Dixon, 20, Lindenwood, N.J.; died Sunday when an explosive went off near his guard post in Samarra, Iraq; assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Armando Hernandez, 22, Hesperia, Calif.; died Sunday when an explosive went off near his guard post in Samarra, Iraq; assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Al-Sadr forces take 18 Iraqi police hostage

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia has kidnapped 18 police officers apparently to use as leverage to force authorities to release militants being detained, police said Tuesday.

The recent kidnappings took place as al-Sadr aides accused officials of trying to arrest top officers with the cleric's Mahdi Army in recent days. The new tensions appear to threaten a fragile cease-fire between the Mahdi army and Iraqi authorities.

A Najaf police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the militants snatched 18 police officers and two police cars in recent days, hoping to get some of their comrades out of prison.

Najaf's governor, Adnan al-Zurfi, confirmed that a number of policemen were kidnapped.

Najaf police were awaiting orders from local officials, who did not want to escalate the situation, the official said.

An Interior Ministry spokesman in Baghdad could not confirm the report.

Ahmed al-Shabani, an al-Sadr spokesman, denied that there were any policemen locked up in al-Sadr's office or any of his quarters.

The Najaf police official said Iraqi police had nothing to do with a Monday confrontation near al-Sadr's house between his militia and U.S. Marines. One woman was killed and three other people wounded in that clash, hospital officials said.

Al-Sadr, whose followers fought a two-month rebellion against U.S. forces in April that died down after a series of truces, was in his house at the time, witnesses said. The U.S. military did not confirm a battle outside al-Sadr's house, saying only that Marines were attacked with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars while patrolling the area. The Marines returned fire, killing two insurgents, the military said.

U.S. warplanes, Afghan troops battle militants

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan troops locked by American warplanes killed as many as 70 militants in a daylong battle near the Pakistani border, in one of the bloodiest clashes since the fall of the Taliban, military officials said Tuesday.

Only two Afghan soldiers were reported dead in the fighting, indicating the militants' vulnerability to American air power while raising fresh suspicions that they are using Pakistan as a base for operations.

An Afghan commander claimed government forces heard militant radio messages in Arabic and the Chechen language, suggesting al-Qaida fighters were involved.

"We could hear the enemy," said Gen. Nawab, an Afghan commander who uses just one name. "I'm sure there were foreigners involved."

The battle began at about 2 a.m. Monday, when dozens of militants armed with rockets, mortars and machine-guns hit a border area in Khost province, a former al-Qaida stronghold about 120 miles south of the capital, Kabul.

The U.S. military said it sent a B-1 bomber, A-10 ground-attack aircraft and helicopter gunships and flew in Afghan reinforcements, eventually forcing the assaults to flee "in panic."

American spokesman Maj. Rick Peat said pilots flying over the area after dawn reported seeing 40 to 50 bodies on the battlefield near the mountainous Pakistani border. Several wrecked vehicles were also spotted.

Nawab put the rebel toll at as high as 70, saying the militants had dragged away many dead and injured as they retreated into Pakistan.

Afghan forces had recovered only ten dead bodies from the scene of the fighting, he said.

The U.S. military said one of more than 100 Afghan soldiers involved in the fighting was killed and three others injured.

However, another Afghan com-

mander, Khial Baz, said two of his men were fatally wounded. Peat said no U.S. ground troops were involved.

The death toll appeared among the heaviest since the aerial poundings of Taliban troops by U.S. planes during the hard-line regime folded in late 2001, and confirms a surge in violence in the run-up to October presidential elections.

Assaults led by U.S. Marines in a Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan in May and June killed more than 100 militants, commanders have said, but it was unclear how many had fallen in a single engagement.

"The coalition and Afghan security forces continue to reap outstanding results" against militants, a U.S. statement said, "refusing to allow them to gather enough strength to affect progress toward a democratic government in Afghanistan."

Khost borders Pakistan's Waziristan tribal area, where officials in Islamabad say hundreds of foreign fighters have found refuge among sympathetic Pashtun tribesmen, the same ethnic group from which the Taliban draws its main strength.

Peat said it was unclear if the attack in Khost was a response to that increased pressure, which has won praise from American commanders, or to a spate of high-profile arrests of suspected al-Qaida members in Pakistan.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, militants appealed to U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai have also targeted aid workers and government officials. At least ten workers and guards helping prepare for landmark elections in October have died so far this year.

In the latest incident, a bomb hit a vehicle carrying a local mayor and a judge in central Afghanistan on Sunday, missing the apparent targets but killing three of the judge's children.

The minors, aged 4 to 10, were in the open rear of the pickup truck when it was hit by a bomb attached to a bicycle in Logar province, local military commander Atqullah Ludin said.

The officials were unhurt.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Jason Chudy and Rick Emert

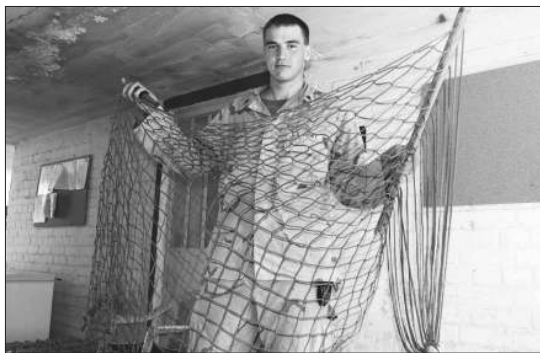


PHOTO BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Charles Copp on Monday shows the hammock he's been making since he arrived at Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqouba, Iraq, in March. Copp, the go-to guy for repairs in Battery C, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, adds several inches to the hammock at a time "whenever I get bored," he said. He also crafts watch, radio and knife handles made out of 550 cord and said he gets many requests for these items from other soldiers in his unit.

Fit to be tied

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GABE, Iraq — If there were ever a shortage of beds or cots in Battery C, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Spc. Charles Copp could take care of it.

The unit's Mr. Fix-it is nearly finished with a full-size hammock he's made with 550 cord meticulously tied into hundreds of square knots.

Copp said he's been working occasionally on the hammock since March.

While he may not be willing to make a hammock for each of his buddies, he has made them handles for knives, watches and radios or by weaving the 550 cord into a sturdy band.

"I've always been into making things and taking them apart," Copp said.

"Then someone showed me 550 cord and that was it."

Copp, who brought a bag of tools with him, also makes items such as door handles in the unit's living and work spaces.

The hammock is made of 16 lengths of cord measuring 25 feet each that Copp purchased on his own.

Stuck with a slogan

BAGHDAD — Iraq's capital may be about as far off the U.S. presidential campaign trail as possible, but it didn't seem to stop a little politicking Monday morning.

When members of Company G, 759th Military Police Battalion stopped to take photos at one of Baghdad's most famous monuments, known as Victory Arch, they invited an Iraqi Facility Protection Service officer, Salman Mohammad, to join them.

As they gathered near the two giant sword-holding hands commemorating the Iran-Iraq war, Mohammad reached into his pocket and pulled out a folded-up "Veteran for Kerry" bumper sticker, holding it up to the laughs and cheers of the New York City natives.

A few days earlier, Mohammad explained, other troops stopped in for photos and gave him the bumper sticker, which he now carries with him when he stands guard at the monument.

Camp honors fallen

FOB GABE — Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Arti-

lery Regiment out of Bamberg, Germany, are paying their respects to fallen comrades by dedicating new facilities in their names.

Three facilities have taken on the names of soldiers killed in action from March to June, said 1st Lt. Jae Marquis, a spokesman for the battalion.

The 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment's post exchange was named in honor of Spc. Allen J. Vandayburg, a gunner who was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Bradley fighting vehicle while defending the governor's mansion in Buzhur on April 9.

The battalion's recently opened gym was dedicated to Pfc. Jason Lynch, who was killed June 18 in a firefight in Baqouba.

One of the forward operating base's living areas, previously called "The Alamo," was renamed Froehlich Square after Spc. Adam D. Froehlich, who was killed March 25 when his patrol was attacked by a makeshift bomb in Baqouba, just one week after 1st Infantry Division's transfer of authority.

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11th MEU takes over for 1st ID; will train Iraqi security, conduct combat ops

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

IRAQ — About 2,100 Marines and sailors from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit took control of the An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah provinces from the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force Dragon on Saturday.

They will be supported by Army civil affairs, military police and engineer units

and an infantry battalion from El Salvador.

The special operations-capable MEU is expected to train and equip Iraqi security forces and conduct combat operations from its three forward operating bases south of Baghdad as part of the Polish-led Multinational Division, according to a news release on the unit's Web site.

The MEU left San Diego in May, about a month earlier than planned, according

to the release. It will be deployed for an undetermined length of time.

The Marines arrived in Iraq last month, disembarking from the USS Belleau Wood expeditionary strike group in Kuwait. After a week's training, the unit moved into Iraq.

The MEU is comprised of a command element, two companies of the 4th Marine Regiment's Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, the reinforced Marine Medium

Helicopter Squadron 166 and MEU Service Support Group 11.

According to the MEU commander, Col. Anthony Haslam, more than half of the Marines and sailors have previously served in Iraq.

The 11th MEU's Web site can be found at: www.usmc.mil/11thmeu/.

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Article 32 hearing opens Iraq prison abuse case

Investigator testifies Pfc. Lynndie England admitted taking lewd photos 'just for fun'

BY ALLEN G. BREED
The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Prosecutors portrayed Pfc. Lynndie England as an out-of-control soldier who mocked Iraqi prisoners in photos "just for fun," seeking Tuesday to discredit claims that she was following orders when she abused detainees at Abu Ghraib prison.

On the first day of a hearing to determine whether England should be court-martialed for her actions at the prison, witnesses testified that the naked detainees shown with her in human pyramids and tethered to a leash were common criminals of little or no value to interrogators, abused only for sport.

An Army investigator, Paul Arthur, testified that when he interviewed England about the photos three months before they became public, she told him they were taken while "they were joking around, having some fun, during the night shift."

Arthur said he believed the reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company, based on Crepsatown, Md., were responding to the stress of being in a war zone. Just before the pictures were taken in October 2003, there had been a prison riot and some soldiers had been injured.

"It was just for fun, kind of venting their frustration," Arthur testified.

But when asked if that assessment applied to England, Arthur replied: "She never men-

tioned that she was frustrated. She said it was more for fun."

Defense lawyers have said that the 21-year-old Army reservist from Fort Ashby, W.Va., was following orders from higher-ups and that the U.S. government has made her a scapegoat for an incident that stirred outrage in the Arab world.

They spent much of the Article 32 hearing's first day grilling investigators on how aggressively they questioned military intelligence operatives at the prison. The hearing is similar to a civilian grand jury session.

Arthur said that England initially told him military intelligence officers allowed the reservists to take the photographs for use in interrogating other prisoners, but there was no indication that ever happened.

"No one said they were going to turn them over to military intelligence," he testified.

A second Army investigator, Warren Worth, testified that England never indicated she was an unwilling participant in the photos, and that she even took some of the pictures herself.

He added that her job was in another part of the prison complex, and she had been warned that she didn't belong in the area where the pictures were taken.

Worth also described other photos that show England engaging in "oral sodomy" with a soldier, posing nude on a beach or at a pool, and waving her breasts in the face of a sleeping soldier. When asked whether En-



Pfc. Lynndie England arrives at the Staff Judge Advocate Building at Fort Bragg, N.C., Tuesday for the beginning of her Article 32 hearing.

gland ever expressed unease at doing these things, Worth responded: "At no time did she say that."

England, visibly pregnant beneath her woodland camouflage uniform, sat impassively with her elbows on the defense table and her hands folded in front of her. Her mother, Terrie England, sat behind her, folding her arms across her chest and wringing her hands as witnesses described the graphic photos.

One of the prison photos shows England smiling, cigarette in her mouth, as she leans forward and points at the genitals of a naked, hooded Iraqi. Another photo shows her holding a leash that encircled the neck of a naked Iraqi man lying on his side on a cellophane floor, his hands on his forehead.

England is charged with 13 counts of abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos which the Army has said do not depict Iraqis. The maximum possible sentence is 38 years in prison.

Court asked to put stop to hearings at Gitmo

BY GINA HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal court has been asked to stop military hearings that will decide if the Pentagon can continue holding hundreds of terror suspects at a Navy base in Cuba.

Last week the Pentagon held the first hearing for a detainee at Guantanamo Bay. The administrative hearings are to determine whether the prisoners are being held properly. More are expected this week in a process that is expected to take up to four months.

"These tribunals are a sham," said Jeff Goff, legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which asked a federal court in Washington for an emergency stay. The center represents 53 of the nearly 600 prisoners at Guantanamo. "The so-called personal representatives assigned to them have no legal background and are not advocates."

The military has said the panels — called Combatant Status Review Tribunals — will be neutral and fair, and that the U.S. courts have found to be wrongly held. The panels were set up after the Supreme Court ruled in June the detainees have a right to challenge their status in U.S. courts.

On Monday, requests to block the panels were filed on behalf of multiple detainees.

MP unit at center of scandal returns

BY JUSTIN BERGMAN
The Associated Press

PETERSBURG, Va. — Members of the Army reserve unit at the center of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal returned home from Iraq to a patriotic welcome, with their commanding officer saying their accomplishment's shouldn't be overlooked.

"We've done a lot of really, really good things," Capt. Donald J. Reese, commander of the 372nd Military Police Company, said Monday as more than 100 members of the company, based in Crepsatown, Md., were reunited with their families at the Fort Lee Army base in Petersburg.

Family members in bleachers screamed and waved flags as the reservists marched into an old airplane hangar, many with solemn expressions on their faces. A giant American flag hung from the rafters and a military band played patriotic songs. Some in the crowd held signs with messages like "We love our MPs" and "God bless that you're safe."

After listening to a brief ceremony, the soldiers hugged family members and did not speak with the media, although the Army said some members will be available later this week. There was no mention of the prison abuse scandal during the ceremony.

Reese later said that the scandal, which has ensnared seven company members, "definitely made it more difficult for us to get through it. I'm sure the military justice system will sort it all out."

The welcoming celebration also included several speakers, among them Maj. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, commander of the Army Reserve's 99th Regional Readiness Command. "You make me incredibly proud to be an American," she told the unit.

Fort Lee spokeswoman Sandra Ellis said the unit will spend five to seven days at Fort Lee in a "decompression"



A woman hugs a member of the 372nd Military Police Company following a ceremony marking the company's return from Iraq at Fort Lee, Va., on Monday.

period that will allow the soldiers to adjust to civilian life and "talk about all the experiences" they have gone through, she said.

"All units are unique and each has experienced something different," Ellis said.

The unit deployed to Kuwait on May 15, 2003, and began training new Iraqi police officers and helping to set up a local police academy. Army officials said. The unit was transferred to Abu Ghraib prison in October 2003, with some working in the detention center and others helping rebuild police stations, courts and schools.

The prisoner abuse scandal burst into public view this spring when photographs surfaced showing beatings and humiliations of Iraqis held at Abu Ghraib near Baghdad. Many of those implicated said they were only following orders.

One of the reservists charged in the scandal, Pfc. Lynndie England, is facing a military hearing to begin Tuesday at North Carolina's Fort Bragg, and another, Spc. Jeremy C. Civits, has pleaded guilty and been sentenced to a year in prison.

Ex-prison commander claims conspiracy kept her in dark about abuse

BY MICHAEL McDONOUGH
The Associated Press

LONDON — The general who headed the U.S. military prison at Abu Ghraib said in an interview broadcast Tuesday that there had been a conspiracy to prevent her knowing about prisoner abuse at the jail.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who was suspended by the Pentagon in May, has denied knowing about any mistreated prisoners until photographs surfaced at the end of April. U.S. investigators have not implicated Karpinski directly in any of the abuses.

Karpinski told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that she had information suggesting officials took action to keep her in the dark about the mistreatment.

"I have been told there's a reliable witness who's made a statement ... indicating that not only was I not included in any of the meetings discussing interrogation operations, but specific measures were taken to ensure I would not have access to those facilities, that information or any of the details of interrogations at Abu Ghraib or anywhere else," Karpinski said.

She didn't identify the witness.

"From what I understand ... it was people that had full knowledge of what was going on out at Abu Ghraib who knew that they had to keep Janis Karpinski from discovering any of those activities," she added.

Asked whether she thought the conspiracy reached up to the Pentagon or the White House, she said: "The indication is that it may have."

Karpinski also disavowed an Iraqi man's allegation in a federal lawsuit that she witnessed abuses at Abu Ghraib. In a videotaped deposition, Saddam "Sam" Saleh Aboud said he endured beatings at the prison. During one session, his hood was removed, and he said he saw Karpinski.

"There's no truth to his statement," she told the BBC.



PHOTOS BY LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

Dr. (Capt.) Patrick Wilson begins to extract Spc. Erica Morgan's wisdom teeth Saturday during the Bulwark '04 exercise at the base camp's dental clinic at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria.

Say 'ah' in Bulgaria

Soldiers at Bulwark exercises can turn to dentist when in need

BY LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria — Come to Bulgaria, lose a few teeth.

Spc. Erica Morgan, an Army reservist with Alabama's 361st Quartermaster Company, visited Dr. (Capt.) Patrick Wilson for another dental issue, but he noticed that the 26-year-old soldier's wisdom teeth were showing signs of decay.

"The wisdom teeth were pretty badly broken down, and [I] recommended that she get them out while she was here, because they could develop pain and problems in the near future," said Wilson, a 46th Medical Company dentist, currently based in Baumholder, Germany.

Morgan came to Bulgaria to take part in the Bulwark '04 exercise, not to have dental surgery. But she didn't feel back in horror at the suggestion to remove her teeth in the field.

"I thought it was a good idea," she said. "Even though we're in the field, they're set up and equipped to do the job."

Dentists can do a lot of procedures in a field environment, said Wilson, who has pulled four teeth



Brigdet McClure prepares Spc. Erica Morgan for an X-ray.

since he began seeing patients at the camp on July 22.

"We can do anything from extracting wisdom teeth to replacing fillings to handling trauma; we can start root canals," he said.

In a tent that looked like a set from the "M*A*S*H" TV show, Wilson and his dental assistant, Spc. Brigdet McClure, went to work.

They first injected a local anesthetic into Morgan's gums and then extracted Morgan's top two wisdom teeth. The procedure took about 90 minutes.

"People expect that we can just tell them what's wrong or only do an exam in the field," Wilson said. "They may not be mentally prepared for a procedure, but they're not happier once we take them out of pain."

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Star cars go on display

The annual "Cars of the Stars" auto show will be Saturday and Sunday at Pulaski Barracks in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Known as the largest American and German car show in Germany, the event is open to American and foreign automobiles, including stock, street machine,

pro-street, street rod and custom. The show will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Vehicle owners can register to display their cars starting at 2 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday at the 415th Base Support Battalion's Auto Skills Center on Pulaski Barracks.

From staff reports

U.S. Navy pulls ship out of Gibraltar festivities

Celebrations marking U.K. rule causes rift with Spain

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — The U.S. Navy pulled one of its ships from Gibraltar's 300th birthday celebrations as tensions heat up between Spain and Britain over the colony's control.

The USS McFaul was the only U.S. ship scheduled to join the British frigate Grafton on Wednesday at a ceremony, but the guided-missile destroyer bypassed the British-ruled territory at the last minute, Gibraltar government officials said. The McFaul and its roughly 330 sailors and officers visited Rota briefly before heading back to the States.

Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's chief minister, accused the U.S. government of caving into pressure from Spain. He called McFaul's cancellation an "inexplicable snub" which "I do not think will be forgotten in a hurry."

"First of all, we had not thought that the United States Navy sought permission from third countries before they decided what parts they visit," he told the Gibraltar Chronicle. "Secondly, it represents a huge snub to a population which has always been supportive of the American use of Gibraltar when others have been much less supportive of the U.S. Navy's use of the facilities at Gibraltar."

The U.S. Embassy in Madrid released a statement on Monday that said no U.S. ship is scheduled to visit the colony during the commemoration.

"We would not want a U.S. ship visit to be perceived as disturbing sensitivities," the statement said.

"U.S. policy toward Gibraltar is unchanged, and we have full confidence that our two good friends and allies, Spain and the U.K., can work out any policy differences between them."

Navy Cmdr. Cate Mueller, a spokeswoman for the Sixth Fleet, would not confirm whether the McFaul had planned to be part of the commemoration because "we do not discuss our ship schedules in advance."

Spain's desire to take back "The Rock" has



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Gibraltar is preparing to mark its 300th birthday, but tensions between Spain and Britain over the colony's control has resulted in the U.S. Navy canceling the participation of one of its ships in the festivities.

caused considerable friction between the two nations. An Anglo-Dutch force seized the tiny colony at the tip of southern Spain 300 years ago. Spain officially turned over Gibraltar to the British in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Celebrations marking British rule have infuriated Spain, and Spanish diplomatic officials have publicly expressed disappointment in the party.

The Pentagon shares two military bases in southern Spain — Naval Station Rota north of Cadiz and Moron Air Base near Seville. However, U.S. ships have visited Gibraltar since the early 19th century.

The colony remains a popular port visit for many American warships deployed to the Mediterranean Sea.

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Arrested sailor accused of attacking motorists allowed to leave Rota base

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — A 20-year-old U.S. sailor was arrested early Saturday morning in Rota and accused of going on a rampage against passing motorists and attacking two Spanish patrol officers, according to a Spanish government source.

A motorist called police around 1:30 a.m. reporting a vice-memorial was in the middle of A-491 near the base punching passing car windows, the government official said on the condition of anonymity. One driver sustained injuries to her face, neck and arms when the sailor punched through the driver's side window of a Ford Mondeo. Motorists told the Guardia Civil, which is similar to the Highway Patrol in the United States, the sailor was charging after cars "like a bull."

The Navy offered few details about the incident, but confirmed that the Guardia Civil arrested a sailor from a unit not assigned to the base on drunk and disorderly charges that day and released him to U.S. military police.

Chief Petty Officer Dan Smithyman, a base spokesman, said the sailor was allowed to leave the base by plane and return to his unit, but said he could not give any additional information because the incident is under investigation. Smithyman said he did not know whether the sailor left for the United States or elsewhere.

Guardia Civil patrol officer found the sailor off the road near where he attacked the driver, according to the source, who has seen the official report. The officers reported the sailor's knuckles were covered with blood.

After officers arrested the sailor and put him in the back seat

of the squad car, the servicemember allegedly attacked the driver as she drove. Then, the sailor turned on the officer sitting in the passenger seat, the source said. The driver lost control of the vehicle and it crashed into a truck stopped at a crossroad.

The officers called for back up and it took eight of them to subdue the sailor, according to the source. The sailor was later taken back to the base.

It is unknown whether the sailor will face Spanish criminal charges or be charged by the U.S. Navy.

Typically, if a sailor is accused of an off-base crime under Spanish jurisdiction, he or she can be put on what the Navy calls "legal hold." Legal hold means a sailor cannot transfer or go on leave outside of Spain without special permission from the command, over and above the normal leave policy, Smithyman said.

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Army lab will get supercomputer

ABERDEEN, Md. — One of the 20 fastest supercomputers in the world will be housed at the Army Research Lab in Aberdeen, officials said.

The "Stryker" supercomputer from IBM will help scientists design better weapon technology for troops in combat.

When the system is installed at the lab in September, it will be the largest Linux-based supercomputer in the U.S. military — twice as large as any system currently in use, said Tom Kendall, chief engineer at the Aberdeen lab.

Kendall said the supercomputer's memory size is more than three times as large as the current system, allowing "researchers to model weapon systems with more detail than has ever been possible before."

The computer's top speed is 10 teraflops, or 10 trillion mathematical operations per second. A person with a calculator would take 8 million years to tabulate the calculations Stryker can handle in one second, according to Dave Turck, an IBM spokesman.

The Aberdeen lab is one of the largest supercomputing facilities in the world.

Charles Nieubiz, director of the lab, said the

new computer will allow scientists to "solve complex, mission-critical physics problems."

Spy plane contract awarded

WASHINGTON — Lockheed Martin won a contract Monday to develop a spy plane for the Army and Navy, the military announced.

The plane, called the Aerial Common Sensor, will replace two Army spy planes as well as one operated by the Navy, the Army's Communications-Electronics Command said in a press release. The command is based at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

The aircraft will be built by Brazil-based Embraer. The plane will have a radar and a system to intercept communications, the Army said.

The contract, worth \$879 million, specifies that Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed develop and test the plane. Future contracts will cover the purchase of the operational model of the aircraft.

The military expects to spend \$7 billion on the Aerial Common Sensor program over its lifetime, an Army spokesman said.

Lockheed beat rival defense firm Northrop Grumman for the contract.

From The Associated Press

DOD: Don't expect transformation on battlefield areas

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Next year, when Pentagon leaders roll out its Quadrennial Defense Review, battlefield logistics and intelligence won't make the list of successful transformational issues, said retired Vice Adm. Arthur Cebrowski, who heads the Pentagon's Office of Force Transformation.

"Folks will look to whatever the last operation is and hold that up as an example," Cebrowski told defense writers Tuesday. "Where you're not going to see people waving the flag and saying 'this is really good' is battlefield logistics or battlefield intelligence."

"If those things were good, the 3rd Infantry Division would have been able to deliver some spare parts," he said.

The QDR is a congressionally mandated midrange planner done every four years that lays out the military's view of threats, military capabilities and strategies.

"That doesn't mean that was a failure. Those systems were pushed to their limits and they were pushed to the limits by a new style of warfare," he said, citing guerrilla warfare,

terrorism and subversion as examples.

So the services are looking for fixes, such as the Army's 10 new lighter and more agile Brigade Combat Teams (Units of Action) to new communication satellites, and vertical lift aircraft that can carry heavy loads and fly long distances.

But the office has failed to shake loose systems and plans rooted in the Cold War era, there are no measurable successes, said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst with the think tank Lexington Institute.

Transformation is the latest failure in Thompson's listing of defense shortcomings over the past several years.

"And now, in the summer of 2004, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's most cherished initiative — military transformation — is beginning to unravel," Thompson wrote in a July 22 paper.

"The waning influence of transformation is readily apparent to those who have reviewed the Strategic Planning Guidance for the 2006 defense budget and the revisions of U.S. national security



Ret. Vice Adm. Arthur Cebrowski

strategy due for release after the election," he wrote.

"But the place where transformation is retreating fastest is the Pentagon's investment accounts. Several huge initiatives championed by the administration are failing to successfully navigate the political minefield formed by unanticipated needs, budget constraints, congressional skepticism and technological complexity."

He cites costly changes in the Army's Future Combat System, a family of fighting vehicles that is the centerpiece of the modern fighting force; the effectiveness and ability of the office to launch space-based radar and communications systems, and the setbacks in the multi-service Joint Strike Fighter.

"Rumsfeld set the stage for these reverses by trying to impose change from above rather than working with Congress and the services," Thompson wrote.

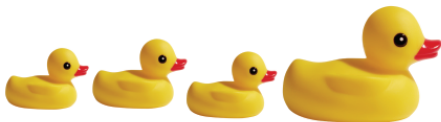
Cebrowski challenged that notion, saying transformation is coming from the grassroots, from those returning from combat zones and instituting some of the change from experience.

Some initiatives aren't seen in equipment alone, he said.

Some changes are seen at service academies, for example, where young lieutenants and captains, sharing lessons learned from the battlefield, are instead teaching the faculty.

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Vice President Dick Cheney waves to the crowd of troops from the Northern American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command at Peterson Air Force base in Colorado Springs, Colo., on Monday. At left, Cheney's wife, Lynn, laughs at her husband's comments.

Cheney: Administration doing 'everything it can' to fight terror

BY ROBERT WELLER
The Associated Press

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Vice President Dick Cheney told nearly 1,000 military personnel on Monday the Bush administration is "doing everything" it can to protect the nation against terrorists and other threats.

"I am grateful to stand before so many who defend our homeland so well," Cheney told the camouflage-clad airmen and a handful of civilians gathered in a hangar. "Your mission here is nothing less than the defense of

America's land, sea and air space."

Cheney, who has been campaigning throughout the West, was addressing members of the Northern American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Northern Command, which was set up here to coordinate the military response to threats to North America following the Sept. 11 attacks.

"It's been almost three years since the terrorists brought war to our homeland," Cheney said. "We saw a foe whose fate for us is limitless. This is, to put it simply, an enemy we must vanquish.

And we will vanquish this enemy."

He added: "President Bush is determined to remove threats before they arrive. ... All Americans can be certain we are doing everything we can to protect this nation."

Chad Clanton, a spokesman for Democrat John Kerry's presidential campaign, said the administration is "not doing all we need to do to strengthen homeland security, and he knows it. We've been sitting on our hands too long. The time for talk is over. It's time for action."

Cleared Gitmo chaplain offers his resignation

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A Muslim chaplain cleared after being imprisoned for 76 days in an espionage probe submitted a letter of resignation to the Army on Monday, saying officials never apologized to him or allowed him to retrieve his belongings from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Capt. James Yee, 35, ministered to prisoners at Guantanamo Bay naval station, where the military is holding suspected Muslim terrorists. He was taken into custody after the military initially linked him to a possible espionage ring at Guantanamo.

"Those unfounded allegations — which were leaked to the media — irreparably injured my personal and professional reputation and destroyed my prospects for a career in the United States Army," Yee wrote in his resignation letter.

Yee asked to be discharged on Jan. 7. The Army must approve his resignation, but Yee's lawyer, Eugene R. Fidell, said he did not believe Yee's wishes would be opposed. Fort Lewis spokesman Lt. Col. Bill Costello said he did not know when Yee might get an answer.

The Army arrested him last September carrying what authori-

ties said were classified documents. He was eventually charged with mishandling classified material, failing to obey an order, making a false official statement, adultery and conduct unbecoming an officer.

In March, Army officials dismissed all criminal charges against him, but found him guilty of the non-criminal Army charges of adultery and downloading pornography. The reprimand he received was thrown out by an Army general a month later.

Sens. Carl Levin of Michigan and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts have asked the Pentagon to investigate the handling of Yee's case, saying it called into question the fairness of military justice.

Once he leaves the Army, Yee plans to continue working on a master's degree in international relations and perhaps pursue a doctorate, as well, Fidell said.



Yee

German Subway restaurants pull controversial promotion

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Subway franchise holders in Germany have killed a promotional tie-in to the documentary "Super Size Me" after conservative interest groups in the United States accused the campaign of fomenting "anti-American" sentiments.

Conservative groups began an Internet and letter-writing campaign late last week aimed at top Pentagon and Congressional leaders to protest tray liners that appeared in German Subway restaurants to promote the July 15 German premiere of the documentary "Super Size Me."

In the film, which bills itself as "an irreverent look at obesity in America and one of its sources — fast food corporations," independent filmmaker Morgan Spurlock gains 24 pounds after 30 days eating nothing but McDonald's fast food, three times a day.

In July, the German distributor of "Super Size Me," Prokino Filmverleih, reached an agreement with approximately 100 German Subway franchisees to provide free tray liners advertising the movie, according to Subway spokesman Les Winiograd.

But after receiving e-mails from U.S. expatriates, the Washington-based National Legal and Policy Center began a campaign to kill the promotion, which the center's

chairman, Ken Boehm, called "beyond the pale."

The tray liners "were in bad taste and not the way to behave in the global community," Boehm said in a Monday telephone interview. "You don't want to politicize fast food, for crying out loud."

On July 28, three Washington-based conservative interest groups sent a letter to Subway chairman Fred DeLuca that accused the Subway campaign of advancing "anti-American rhetoric and false, negative stereotypes in an already heated political environment."

The most offensive element of the campaign, the letter to DeLuca said, is the tray liner's cartoon depiction of a plump Statue of Liberty holding fries and a hamburger, which makes "mockery of our national symbol."

But the notion of an ever-expanding Statue of Liberty "is a major theme in the film," Winiograd said, not something that was created specifically for the tray liners.

The groups also objected to the promotion's "derogatory" use of the word "Ami," as shorthand for "American," Boehm said.

"It's a little like calling someone from Japan a 'Jay,'" Boehm said. "No other major U.S. corporation markets their product by making ethnic, religious, or prejudicial references to their customers."

Winiograd disagreed with the Boehm's translation of the German phrase.

"Ami is an affectionate nickname, more like calling an American a 'Yank,'" he said. The National Legal and Policy Center



Courtesy of National Legal and Policy Center

Tray liners used in German Subway restaurants as a tie-in to the documentary "Super Size Me" have been removed because of claims they featured "anti-American" sentiments.

sent similar letters of protest to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and members of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, asking them to contact Subway regarding its "anti-American advertising campaign."

The German Subway franchisees "were very heart sick to find there was a furor," Winiograd said. The promotion "was innocuous and innocent. There was no insult intended."

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IN THE STATES

Ridge defends reliance on 3-year-old data

Miguel and Hilda Thome of Mexico return on the ferry after visiting the Statue of Liberty on Tuesday, the first day since Sept. 11, 2001, that tourists were allowed inside the statue.



Statue of Liberty reopens for visitors; first time since 9/11

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Tuesday the government concluded "it was essential" to publicize detailed surveillance documents and raise the terror alert, even though the intelligence information dated from as far back as 2000 and 2001.

Speaking at a news conference in New York, Ridge said that be-

cause of the heightened security steps, "We have made it much more difficult for the terrorists to achieve their broad objectives."

Yet investigators said they are still trying to determine whether the individuals who amassed the information, principally on financial institutions in New York, Newark and Washington, are still in the country or plotting, or whether the plot was old.

A White House spokesman said the intelligence was detailed and "chilling," even if some of the information appeared to be old.

"I think you have to keep in mind al-Qaida's history of planning attacks well in advance and then updating those plans just before attacking," said spokesman Scott McClellan, traveling with President Bush on Air Force One.

A senior Justice Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said federal government investigators are operating under the assumption that the plot was ongoing.

But a senior U.S. law enforcement official said officials were still trying to determine if that was the case or whether the plot had already expired. The federal government has said there was surveillance on the Citigroup Center building and the New York Stock Exchange in New York, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington and Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark, N.J.

Ridge said there was no indication that terrorists had infiltrated the financial institutions themselves in order to obtain information about them.

Top Bush administration officials said some of the surveillance was apparently updated as recently as January of this year. And they denied any allegations that the public release of the information now, and the raising of the terror alert, were politically motivated.

But some Democrats have raised concerns that the timing of the release of the information had more to do with politics than with fears that terrorists were about to strike.

Meanwhile, in the harbor nearby, the Statue of Liberty welcomed back huddled masses of tourists Tuesday for the first time since it was shut down nearly three years ago in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton was on hand to officially open the doors, and a military choir sang George M. Cohan's "It's a Grand Old Flag" before the crowd rose for the national anthem.

Lady Liberty's pedestal was reopened despite new warnings over the weekend of possible terrorist attacks on financial centers in nearby Manhattan, Newark, N.J., and in Washington, D.C.

"I think it shows the world that liberty cannot be intimidated," Assistant Interior Secretary Craig Manson said during a media preview tour Monday. "I think it's significant that despite the raising of the alert levels, we are still going ahead with the reopening."

Tightened security measures at the 118-year-old national monument include a new bomb detection device that blows a blast of air into clothing and then checks for particles of explosive residue.

214th Coast Guard Birthday

August 4, 2004



The Coast Guard's new 13-foot Homeland Security Unit practices boat intercept maneuvers with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources near the Silver Lake Bridge in Brunswick, Ga. May 28, 2004. The Coast Guard entered a new security zone along the G 9 summit to ensure public safety in the estuary.

AP Photo/Johnathan Sorensen. Inset: Robert Nash, U.S. Coast Guard (Released).

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper



Senators: Give new chief authority to direct intel

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Congress must give a proposed national intelligence director and counterterrorism center sufficient authority to overcome the intelligence community's turf battles, senators said Tuesday as Congress continued to explore the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations.

Bush is ready to create the position of national intelligence director, but some lawmakers wonder whether what he's proposed will have enough power to get the nation's 15 sometimes turf-conscious spy agencies working in concert.

Democrats have criticized Bush's rejection of the Sept. 11 commission's recommendation that a new national intelligence director control all intelligence budgets and have the authority to choose who would lead the CIA, FBI, Defense Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agen-

cies. Bush also turned aside the commission's idea for placing both the counterterrorism center and the director within the White House.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said at a hearing on creating the new agency that the White House recommendation for a new agency and its chief "appears to lack the powers that the commission wants it to have," particularly budgetary authority over the intelligence-gathering agencies.

"When everyone is in charge, no one is in charge," Lieberman said. As leader of "our nation's war against Islamic terrorism" the new intelligence director must have the authority to command all of the intelligence community, Lieberman said.

Any new counterterrorism directorate "must get what it needs, both in resources and in its place in the priorities of the agencies that collect intelligence," added Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chair of the Senate Governmental Relations Committee.

Bush hits stride with campaign back in Texas

BY SCOTT LINDLAU
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush was making a fresh appeal to Roman Catholic voters and fattening the GOP's campaign war chest in Texas on Tuesday, the start of three days of campaigning in the nation's midsection.

Bush set out for Dallas after signing a U.S.-Australian trade treaty at the White House.

"It expands our security and political alliance by creating a true economic partnership," he told a Rose Garden audience sweltering in the summer sun. "It will create jobs and opportunities in both our nations. It will fuel economic growth throughout the Pacific Rim, and it will strengthen our common ties of family and friendship."

A Republican National Committee fund-raiser awaited Bush in Dallas. The RNC has raised at least \$217 million this election cycle and started July with \$78 million left. The Democratic National Committee has collected about \$125 million and began July with roughly \$63 million on hand. Journalists are barred from Tuesday's fund-raiser.

Later in Dallas, Bush was to deliver a speech to the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's benefit society.

Aides said Bush's remarks would focus on administration programs that encourage the mentoring of prisoners' children and access to recovery programs for drug addicts. Bush also was to promote his efforts to expand religious groups' ability



AP

President Bush bounds down the steps from the Oval Office to sign the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act on Tuesday in the Rose Garden of the White House.

to participate in government-funded social service programs.

Bush split the Catholic vote with Democrat Al Gore in the 2000 election and has steadily courted Catholic voters ever since, mindful that they represent about a quarter of the electorate. The president met with Pope John Paul II for the third time two months ago.

Bush's rival, John Kerry, is Catholic; the president is Methodist.

Kerry promoting budget reforms

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

BELOIT, Wis. — John Kerry was tooting his plan to rein in wasteful government spending and balance the federal budget as his string of campaign buses wound into the Midwest.

"We can do this," Kerry said in remarks prepared for delivery on Tuesday. "We can return to the days where we balanced the budget, grew our economy and spent your money responsibly. We can balance our federal budget so you can grow yours."

Kerry promises to pay for all new government programs and cut the federal deficit in half in four years. To do that, he wants the power to veto individual spending decisions made by Congress and enforce budget caps with automatic spending cuts.

He planned to discuss his economic plans in a town hall meeting on Tuesday.

President Bush, campaigning for re-election Tuesday in Dallas, has promised to slice the federal deficit in half in five years.

The White House last week said it expected this year's federal deficit to reach \$445 billion. That's less than the White House budget office previously estimated, but it would still be a record in dollar

terms.

The Treasury Department said Monday that Congress needs to let the government borrow more than the \$7.4 trillion it can borrow now. It expects to run into that ceiling this fall, about the same time the presidential contest hits full stride.

Kerry stops in this town just



Kerry

over the Illinois border in Wisconsin on his fifth day of a two-week tour that takes the campaign from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The tour left Boston on a bus, crossed Lake Michigan on a high-speed ferry, and planned to take a train west from St. Louis later this week after Kerry reunites with his running mate, John Edwards, who has been campaigning in Southern states.

"He's coming up the Mississippi, and I'm going down the Mississippi," Kerry said. "We are going to get on a train, the train that Harry Truman rode the first time any presidential candidate's gone from ocean to ocean, from sea to shining sea."

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FDA approves new combination AIDS drugs

BY DIEDTRA HENDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two new AIDS drugs, each of which combines two medications within a single tablet, have been approved by federal regulators, the Food and Drug Administration's acting commissioner said Monday.

The drugs give AIDS sufferers in poor countries a better chance of survival. It received a speedier review to ensure that safe and effective drugs are made available under the government's \$15 billion emergency plan for AIDS relief.

The FDA approval primarily benefits American consumers. By passing FDA muster, however, the drugs now can be bought

by the global AIDS coordinator's office for distribution to AIDS patients in poor countries.

Components of the new drugs already had been on the market as individual drugs. With the combinations, AIDS sufferers will be able to take a single pill per day instead of two, which experts say is especially pertinent in countries where patients are likely to have less experience with medical routine.

"It is our firm belief that these steps will make a huge difference in the lives of millions of people in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean ... by assuring that the drugs they get under this program, indeed, will be quality products," acting FDA Commissioner Lester M.

Crawford told a luncheon crowd at the National Press Club.

The World Health Organization estimates that only 400,000 of the 6 million people worldwide who need AIDS treatment receive combination drugs that could extend their lives.

Gilead Science's Truvada, to be distributed in developing nations in a lighter shade of blue than in the United States, reduces virus that circulates in the body and boosts the number of cells that attack the virus that causes AIDS.

The manufacturer of the second drug, GlaxoSmithKline, said it will issue vouchers providing free 60-day supplies of Epzicom directly to patients in the United States. The vouchers, in limited

supply and issued by health-care providers, target patients who haven't used anti-retroviral therapy before or need their therapies changed.

Crawford announced the new drug approvals in outlining the agency's to-do list for the next six months.

Besides other initiatives, the agency aims to:

- Hammer home the need for best manufacturing practices to reduce risk for consumers. "It is impossible to inspect every prescription drug pill, every diagnostic testing kit, every animal vaccine and every food parcel that is manufactured," Crawford said.

- Complete guidelines for companies that make supplements, preventing products with impuri-

ties or contamination from reaching consumers.

- Let patients with serious and terminal ailments to receive promising drugs that haven't yet gotten final agency approval.

- Finish orders companies to make wording on prescription drug labels less complicated so users can understand what the pills they're swallowing do.

- Prevent salmonella infection, which kills 87 and sickens 213,000 each year, by reducing the risk posed by contact with tainted eggs.

- Demystify carbohydrates by spelling out what is or is not low-carb. "It's hard to imagine carbohydrates are mysterious," Crawford said, adding that the manufacturers' labels make them so.

NASA launches craft to study Mercury

BY MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A spacecraft named Messenger rocketed away Tuesday on a 5 billion-mile journey to the sun and a stranger to camera close-ups for the past three decades.

NASA launched Messenger in the pre-dawn moonlight on the roundabout ramble through the inner solar system. The 6½-year trip should have started a day earlier, but clouds from Tropical Storm Alex postponed liftoff.

"A voyage of mythological proportions," a flight controller announced as soon as Messenger shed its final rocket stage.

Applause erupted in launch control.

"That looked wonderful," said launch director Chuck Dovaie. "We bid Messenger farewell."

Scientists have been yearning to study Mercury up close ever since Mariner 10 zoomed by three times in the mid-1970s.

If all goes well, come 2011, Messenger will be the first spacecraft to orbit Mercury.

The spacecraft cannot fly straight to Mercury; it does so by carrying nearly enough fuel. So it will fly once past Earth, twice past Venus and three times past Mercury for gravity assists — and make 15 loops around the sun

— before slowing enough to slip into orbit around the small, hot planet.

Its seven scientific instruments will collect data for a year in orbit around Mercury, an average 36 million miles from the sun. That's 2½ times closer to the sun than Earth — it would be as though 11 suns were beating down on Earth.

Messenger will be blasted by up to 700-degrees heat once it reaches Mercury, but its instruments will operate at room temperature, protected by a custom-built ceramic-fabric sunshade just one-quarter of an inch thick. All Mariner 10 had was a quaintly old-fashioned umbrella.

That's why, in large part, it's taken so long to return to Mercury. Scientists had to figure out how to beat the heat.

Technology and opportunity converged only recently via NASA's low-cost, planetary-science Discovery program. The entire tab for the Messenger mission, developed and run by Johns Hopkins University, is \$427 million.

Mariner 10 provided "a glimpse of this planet of extremes," said Orlando Figueroa, director of NASA's solar system exploration division. Because it only flew by Mercury and did not circle the planet, Mariner 10 observed less than half the orb.

Messenger will view Mercury from all sides.



A Delta II rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., early Tuesday, carrying the Messenger probe that will study the planet Mercury. Messenger is the first spacecraft in 30 years to head to the closest planet to the sun.

N. Carolina residents unfazed by hurricane

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

RODANTHE, N.C. — Hurricane Alex strengthened with sustained wind reaching 100 mph Tuesday as it followed a track just off the coast of North Carolina, but most of the storm-hardened residents of the Outer Banks didn't even bother to board up their windows.

Motel parking lots and the campground at Oregon Inlet were still full. Restaurants left their outdoor furniture in place and one hardware store had left bags of potting soil sitting out alongside other displays.

The storm built to hurricane strength early in the day and by midday the sustained wind nudged its eye — which remained off the coast — to the northeast to nearly 100 mph, with higher gusts, the National Hurricane Center said.

On shore, rain fell in a steady, diagonal downpour at Rodanthe and up to 6 inches of rain was possible in some areas, the National Weather Service said. The agency reported an 83 mph wind gust on Ocracoke Island and a 72 mph gust at Buxton on Hatteras Island.

The hurricane center said little additional strengthening was expected by midday Wednesday.

Because the forecast track would keep the storm's center, where the strongest wind blows, just off the long-lying Outer Banks islands, Alex did not raise the same level of concern as have previous storms that made direct hits on the resort area and stayed over land for extended periods.

"It's just going to be a couple of days of rain and a little bit of wind, then it will be life as usual," said Outer Banks resident Jim Sarsfield, who picked up loose objects around his home but didn't plan to board windows.

"Just ... your basic get-ready-to-get-ready."

Space station astronauts prepare for supply ship arrival

BY MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A pair of spacewalking astronauts left the safe confines of the International Space Station Tuesday and installed equipment for a new line of cargo ships coming off the assembly line next year.

Russian Gennady Padalka and American Mike Fincke floated outdoors in the early-morn-

ing hours, taking their third spacewalk in just over a month. This time, they zipped through relatively mundane housekeeping chores, setting up laser reflectors and antennas and swapping out science experiments.

At the end of June, the men had to make their way across the entire space station to reach a fried circuit breaker that needed to be replaced on the U.S. side of the orbiting outpost. It took two spacewalks to accom-

plish the job; a spacesuit problem cut short their first foray.

All of Tuesday's tasks were on the Russian side of the 220-mile-high complex, just a short hop from the main exit, making for a much easier endeavor.

Padalka and Fincke left the space station empty during their 4½-hour spacewalk. In what is becoming routine, although not preferred, flight controllers in Moscow and Houston

kept watch over the vacated outpost.

To prepare for the arrival of a European supply ship that has been in the pipeline for years and is running late, Padalka and Fincke hooked up antennas and also removed outdated laser reflectors and put in newer models. The six old reflectors were built in the late 1990s and have been in orbit since 2000, and the new ones will make it easier for the unmanned ships to close in and pull up, NASA officials said.

IN THE WORLD

Al-Qaida group again threatens European nations

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A group claiming to represent al-Qaida in Europe repeated threats against Britain, Italy, Bulgaria and other nations with forces in Iraq in a Web statement Tuesday.

But the statement denied that the group, calling itself Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigade Europe, had demanded that Italy withdraw its troops from Iraq within 15 days. The ultimatum, also signed Hafs al-Masri Brigade, was posted on the Web on Sunday.

Tuesday's statement was one in a series of claims and counter-claims in recent days that illustrate the difficulties of determining the authenticity of such Web threats or whether those that post them have any ability to carry them out.

The Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigade takes its name from a top al-Qaida lieutenant who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Af-

ghanistan in 2001. It has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks on Western targets, including the March 11 train bombings in Spain.

Counterterrorism experts question whether the group has any agents capable of launching attacks and say some of its claims are obviously false or exaggerated.

Italy and other European countries face heightened alerts after the expiration on July 15 of a three-month truce offered by al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden to European countries if they left Iraq, Afghanistan and other Muslim countries.

Tuesday's Web threat echoed one on Friday that said: "From here in Italy, and from Britain and Bulgaria, and all European countries, we call on all our people to mobilize and prepare to engage in the battle, a new type and style of battle. Prepare to shed blood, let us make it an endless bloody war."

Flooding destroys food supply

The Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh will need food aid for 20 million people — or one-seventh of its population — over the next five months because of massive flooding that has destroyed crops, the country's disaster minister said Tuesday.

The worst monsoon rains and flooding in six years have covered 60 percent of this nation of 140 million since June, destroying crops and jobs, said Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain. Bangladesh's flood death toll rose to 628 late Tuesday, with 39 more deaths reported — nine of them from diarrhea, a spokesman at the Disaster Management Ministry said.

The floods have disrupted Bangladesh's \$4 billion textile industry, which earns nearly 80 percent of the country's export earnings. The overall flood damage could total \$6.7 billion, officials have estimated.

Meanwhile, the U.N. World Food Program said it is giving much-needed food supplies to nearly 2 million people and plans to launch a major emergency operation for millions more victims with help from other donor agencies.



Bangladesh relief workers distribute food to children at flood-hit Kamrangir Char area of Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Tuesday.

As waters have begun to recede in some areas, diseases have spread, adding another daily toll to the country's death toll of 628. That is about one-third of the 1,619 people who have died across South Asia since mid-June in the annual monsoon rains and floods, surpassing last year's total of 1,500.

The U.N. Children's Fund launched an appeal Tuesday to raise \$13.4 million to save tens of thousands of lives.

Diarrhea, dysentery and typhoid have affected more than 100,000 people and killed at least 60 of them, mostly children, government officials have said.



People attend a pre-burial ceremony for victims of the supermarket fire in Asuncion, Paraguay, on Monday.

Paraguay supermarket fire death toll leaps up to 464

Guard says he was ordered to lock doors after blaze started

BY PEDRO SERVIN
The Associated Press

ASUNCION, Paraguay — The death toll from a weekend fire at a supermarket shot up by more than 100 to reach 464 on Tuesday, as a security guard told investigators he received orders to lock the building's doors just after the blaze began to prevent theft, officials said.

Investigators have been questioning the store's owners, manager and security guards over reports that doors were locked, trapping shoppers inside during Sunday's fire, the worst disaster in decades in this impoverished South American country.

The Attorney General's office put the death toll at 464, saying 325 victims had been identified and 139 others still had not.

Officials also said that 49 others remained hospitalized.

The blaze broke out during lunch hour at the three-story supermarket in a suburb of Asuncion, the capital. Flames quickly filled the Yca Balanos supermarket, food court and parking gar-

rage, causing one floor to collapse.

Prosecutor Edgar Sanchez, who is leading the investigation, said a security guard told authorities that at the outset of the fire he received orders over a radio to lock the doors to prevent theft.

Sanchez said the guard "didn't know" who gave the order.

The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined, but police said an exploding gas canister may have been to blame.

The store's owners — a father and son — the store manager and a security guard have been taken into custody for questioning since the blaze.

Juan Pio Paiva, who owns the market with his son, dismissed speculation that the doors had been deliberately locked to prevent looting and said the building met safety codes. He said he lamented the deaths.

But officials said they were trying to piece together survivor claims that locked doors might have impeded or slowed weekend shoppers trying to escape.

Attorney General Oscar

Latorre appealed to survivors to come forward to describe what happened. Authorities set up a table outside the supermarket — a pink-and-white building occupying nearly an entire city block — to question survivors and other witnesses.

"Many witnesses said that security guards had closed the doors," Latorre said.

The first services for victims were held around the capital Monday. In a neighborhood near the complex, some 25 grief-stricken families held wakes and vigils, many after the deaths of children. Some of the victims were burned beyond recognition, and their caskets are to be marked for possible exhumation in the future to identify the remains, Asuncion Mayor Enrique Kiera said.

Ruben Aguilar said his family held a candlelit vigil for his missing 23-year-old sister, Marina, only to learn she was found alive but injured.

"This is a moment of such great pain because of this tragedy, but my whole family are now overjoyed," Aguilar told reporters.

Associated Press writer Debora Rey contributed to this report.

Russian military trains to protect nuclear weapons

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia conducted a military exercise Tuesday to practice crushing an attempt by terrorists to seize nuclear weapons.

The maneuvers, which NATO observers were invited to monitor, were held in the northern Murmansk region and involved more than 2,000 army troops and warplanes from various agencies, according to the Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, who attended the exercise, used the occasion to reaffirm

that the nation's nuclear weapons are secured.

"... Russia understands the measure of responsibility for protecting nuclear weapons and dealing with possible accidents," Ivanov said, according to Interfax.

The exercise was intended to simulate attacks by terrorists on a train and a convoy of vehicles carrying nuclear weapons. The troops were practicing fending off the attacks and dealing with the aftermath, Interfax and ITAR-Tass reported.

About 50 officials from various NATO member nations are in Russia to observe the exercise.

Europeans backing Kerry

... even though they know little about him

BY PAMELA SAMPSON

The Associated Press

PARIS — Europe's deep disdain for U.S. President George W. Bush seems to be the engine behind John Kerry's growing appeal on the "old" side of the Atlantic despite the fact that he is still an unknown quantity in Paris, London and Berlin.

Antipathy to Bush has translated into enthusiasm for the presidential nominee, whom some Europeans were able to glimpse during broadcasts on the continent last week of his speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Daniel Thow of Berlin, who has been observing the U.S. election campaign on Web sites and television, said he does not know where Kerry stands on many issues, but that he would make a better president than Bush no matter what.

"I know, for example, that Ronald Reagan's son spoke for him, and so did Bill Clinton," said the 28-year-old graphic designer.

"Everyone is better than Bush." Alfred Gusenbauer, the chairman of Austria's opposition Socialist Party, said Friday he thinks a Kerry victory "would lead America back into the international com-



A poster for the movie "The World According To Bush" hangs behind two French soldiers waiting for the start of the Bastille Day military parade in Paris on July 14. Europe's dislike for President Bush seems to be the engine behind John Kerry's growing appeal on the other side of the Atlantic.

munity of nations."

Gusenbauer said he considered Kerry "a very respectable presidential candidate," reflecting broad support for the senator in neutral Austria, which scorned the United States for pressing ahead with its campaign in Iraq despite the grave misgivings of many European countries, especially France and Germany.

Some analysts cautioned against viewing Kerry as a magic candi-

diate with the power to heal the trans-Atlantic alliance that was badly tattered over Iraq.

Bruno Tertrais, a senior research fellow at the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris, said Kerry's rhetoric — such as his convention pledge to continue the "global war on terror" — was uncomfortably similar to Bush's.

In Britain, some commentators think Kerry has one main asset — he's not Bush.

Sports department established at Vatican

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II has instituted a sports department, the Vatican said Tuesday, describing the millions of people who will follow the Olympics in Athens this month as testimony to the importance sports has in today's world.

"Today, sports occupy a very relevant role, both on the personal level as well as on the global level," the Vatican said.

An avid skier and swimmer before he developed health problems, John Paul set up the new Church and Sports division within the Vatican office dealing with the laity.

"The upcoming Olympics in Athens and the millions of persons around the world who will follow them are yet again a clear sign of how much sports are an important element in the life of our societies," the Vatican said.

Three quakes shake Turkey's coast

ANKARA, Turkey — Three moderate earthquakes, the strongest with a preliminary magnitude of 5.0, shook Turkey's Aegean coast hours apart on Tuesday, the Kandilli Observatory said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The first two quakes had preliminary magnitudes of 4.3, the observatory said. The third and larger quake was centered in the sea in the bay of Gokova and shook the resort towns of Marmaris, Bodrum and Datca.

The first quake was also centered in sea in the Gokova bay far from the popular resort town of Bodrum in the Mugla province at 8:33 a.m., the observatory said. Four hours later the second tremor, also centered in the Aegean Sea, rocked the resort town of Datca further to the south.

Singapore holds computer hacking contest

SINGAPORE — Singapore said Tuesday it would organize a contest to find the tech-savvy city-state's best computer hacker.

Six pairs will compete in the Aug. 20 "BlackOPS: Hack Attack Challenge 2004," organized by the government-funded National Information Competency Center, said its marketing manager Yvonne Choo.

They will "penetrate, exploit, gain access and obtain privileged information from the other teams' servers, for the purpose of corporate espionage," the center said on its Web site. Teams will also have to defend their organization's networks against hacking from other teams in the daylong event, it added.

Choo said he hoped the contest would help shed light on ways to prevent actual computer attacks. The prize for the best hacker will be a DVD burner and free computer classes.

From The Associated Press



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OPINION

Kerry's cherry-picking leaves profile lacking

Sen. John Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, celebrated their first anniversary at a Wendy's restaurant because, in the days before junk science and glibbie jurists made Edwards a multimillionaire, that was all they could afford.

Jack Kelly



So Friday, the day after the Democratic convention, the newly minted nominees stopped their bus tour at a Wendy's restaurant in Newburgh, N.Y., so that John Kerry and his wife, Teresa, could buy John and Elizabeth Edwards lunch on their 27th anniversary.

The Edwardses each ordered a hamburger and fries. Teresa had the chili, after first asking the gal behind the counter what it was. John Kerry ordered chili and a Frosty.

They didn't eat much of their meals, with good reason. Waiting for them back on the campaign bus were five-star lunches ordered the night before from Nikola's restaurant at the Newburgh Yacht Club. (Wendy's menu doesn't include shrimp, vodka, grilled sea scallops, prosciutto and wrapped stuffed chicken.)

The deception was mild, as deceptions in politics go. But Kerry and Edwards were pretending to be something they were not, a continuation of the theme of the Democratic convention.

A survey taken in Boston indicated that nearly 90 percent of the delegates believe the war in Iraq was a mistake, or worse. But there wasn't a hint of this in the Democratic party's platform, or from the rostrum.

The survey indicated that delegates also support gay marriage and abortion on de-

mand, but these topics were banned in Boston.

What there was at the Democratic convention was an orgy of patriotic and traditional symbolism. American flags were everywhere. God was frequently invoked by a party that in the recent past has tried to banish him from the public square. Conventions are masquerade balls in which each party pretends it is like the other. (Journalist Mort Kondracke has said, but Democrats this year carried this to a ludicrous extreme.)

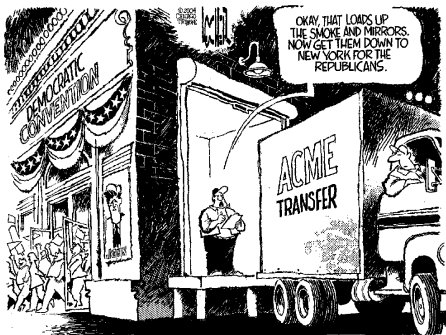
What the convention was mostly was a highly selective biography of the nominee. John Kerry is the Rip Van Winkle of candidates. Rip Van Winkle is the Washington Irving character who fell asleep in the Catskill Mountains for 20 years.

Kerry's snooze has been longer. He is asking Americans to vote for him for president on the basis of what he did for four months and 12 days in Vietnam in the winter and spring of 1968-69, and on the basis of what he has said since serving in the Democratic nomination in March. The 35 years in between have been dropped down the memory hole.

This is extraordinary. Every presidential candidate in history has emphasized some parts of his life story, and soft-pedaled others. But never before has a candidate for president asked us to dismiss as irrelevant his entire career in public life.

Kerry first became a public figure as a spokesman for Vietnam Veterans Against the War, in particular with his riveting — and false — testimony before a U.S. Senate committee in 1971 accusing his fellow Vietnamese of war crimes. Though he owes his career to them, Kerry's anti-war activities received rarely a mention at his coronation.

Kerry's anti-war activities do not detract from his heroism in the war he denounced,



but may be a better indicator of his actual views of his country and its national security policy than was his behavior in combat.

Kerry has served in the U.S. Senate for nearly 20 years, but he devoted just two sentences to it in his acceptance speech. There isn't much to say, since his record there is devoid of significant accomplishment. But it is a startling omission.

But an understandable omission, given that Kerry is claiming he would do a better job of managing the war on terror than President Bush has.

Kerry has perhaps the most dovish record of any currently serving senator. He voted

against the first Gulf War, and against nearly every major weapon system that brought us victory in that war, and in Afghanistan and Iraq. In 1994, he tried to cut by \$5 billion over five years what nearly everyone now agrees were grossly inadequate intelligence budgets.

President Bush is running on his record, wars and all. John Kerry is running from his.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former U.S. Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Democrats' choice grasps issues incumbent doesn't

Forget the hoopla, the charming kids, the hamster story, the heart-warming tale about Mom.

The main question is not whether John Kerry is a nice guy. It's whether his policies are more suited for the country's security needs over the next four years. That's what people were trying to divine from the Democrats' convention in Boston.

Trudy Rubin



After watching "the speech," talking to Kerry foreign policy advisers and visiting Iraq three times since the war — I'd say the answer is yes.

Here's why: The Bush anti-terror policy has lost its way. Yes, the president does what he says, but what he says and he has led us into a defensive position in the struggle against terrorism.

Our troops are bogged down in a guerrilla war against Iraq that hasn't weakened al-Qaida. Just the opposite. The terror group has found a new base in an unstable Iraq.

Anti-Americanism in the Mideast has never been greater. Iraq instability and Bush's abandonment of efforts to promote Israel-Palestinian peace are a recruitment ad for al-Qaida.

Al-Qaida would be ousted if he botched the biggest test of his tenure. Yet not one Bush official has been fired for failing to plan for Iraq's postwar problems.

What needs to be changed first is the attitude in the Oval Office.

"I will be a commander in chief who will never mislead us into war," Kerry said in his

acceptance speech. He has pledged to return ... "credibility" to the White House.

The Bush administration's hype on Iraq (expanding Saddam Hussein's real threat to the Mideast into a nuclear threat against the U.S. mainland) has made much of the world cynical about the anti-terrorist struggle ...

If the United States is to rally other countries to this long-term goal — and convince the citizens — a more credible U.S. leader is required. The world's growing anti-Americanism, which hampers any global alliance against terrorism, is focused on the persona and policies of George W. Bush.

Kerry ... is overtly optimistic about what [our] allies would contribute, especially in Baghdad. But he would have a far better chance than Bush of persuading our NATO allies to do more in Afghanistan, and take on

new missions outside Europe. Kerry advisers say he would push for needed reforms in NATO and the United Nations.

In fact, the Bush emphasis on unilateral use of force ... is reaching a dead end. The Bush doctrine of pre-emptive war ... has proved unsustainable.

With postwar Iraq in trouble and Afghanistan's future in question, the White House can't contemplate war in Iran or North Korea. Despite early saber rattling, the Bush administration has had to resume negotiations to try to curb these countries' nuclear weapons programs — with the help of European and Asian allies. In effect, Bush has come around to the Kerry school of thought.

Kerry's strongest argument is that, while force may indeed be necessary, equal emphasis has to be given to other means ...

Kerry has very interesting proposals in an area to which the Bush team has paid far too little attention: securing nuclear material all around the world before it can fall into the hands of terrorists. He has also pledged to do what the Bush administration has not — pay more attention and put more funds into vital areas of homeland security ...

It is hard to believe that — as the administration spends tens of billions in Iraq — it has left hundreds of U.S. chemical and nuclear plants unsecured. Who needs Saddam's supposed chemical weapons when one terrorist attack on a chemical plant could endanger untold numbers of Americans? This kind of anti-terrorism management needs to be changed.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Warning: Credit-freezees

BY BRIAN BERGSTEIN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Little by little, a weapon against identity theft, a freezing currency — but few people know about it.

It's called the security freeze, and it lets individuals block access to their credit reports until they personally unlock the files by contacting the credit bureaus and providing a PIN code.

The process is a bit of a hassle, and the credit-reporting industry believes it complicates things unnecessarily. But it appears to be one of the few ways to virtually guarantee that a fraudster cannot open an account in your name.

The freeze became an option in California and Texas last year, and Louisiana and Vermont will allow it beginning next July.

However, the Texas and Vermont laws apply only to people who already have been victimized by identity theft.

Only 2,000 Californians and 150 Texans have taken advantage of the freeze, according to Experian Inc., one of the three major credit bureaus.

But identity theft watchdogs say the freeze is long overdue because the credit bureaus don't publicize the option. With identity theft becoming a serious problem, the advocates hope the freeze gains national momentum. Congress resisted calls for a freeze rule during debate over a major credit law last year.

"It's the best protection we have," said Linda Foyle, execu-

tive director of the Identity Theft Resource Center in San Diego.

While the freeze may be an extreme step, its backers say it is necessary because the existing system is broken.

The Internet and consumer databases have made it easier than ever to find someone else's Social Security number and apply for credit accounts in that name. Meanwhile, obtaining credit is a breeze, as zero-percent financing offers crowd our mailboxes and appliance stores make no-money-down come-ons.

People who suspect trouble can place fraud alerts on their credit reports.

But identity theft watchdogs say the alerts are often ignored by creditors who are willing, say, to gamble that the potential plasma TV purchaser in front of them is legitimate, and write off any losses that might occur if the person turns out to be a con artist.

"That scenario is 'unfortunately not uncommon,'" said Joanne McNabb, chief of the California Office of Privacy Protection.

A 2003 study for the Federal Trade Commission determined that in the previous year, 3.2 million Americans' personal information had been stolen by thieves who opened new accounts or loans. On average, victims lost \$1,180 and spent 60 hours resolving the problem.

That scenario is "unfortunately not uncommon," said Joanne McNabb, chief of the California Office of Privacy Protection.

Louisiana's freeze is also free for people 62 and older.

For everyone else in California and Louisiana, the initial freeze is \$10.

Unfreezing it temporarily is \$8 in Louisiana and up to \$12 in California. But the cost of each step is multiplied by three because it must be performed with all three major credit bureaus, Experian, Equifax and TransUnion.

With the freeze on, if someone applies for credit in your name, the creditor will be unable to check your history, and the applicant will get rejected. The freeze won't keep credit card offers out of the mail — those are generated through a "prescreening" process that doesn't require full examination of your credit until you actually apply for the card.) If you want to apply for credit or let someone run a background check on you, you have to call the credit bureaus, provide the PIN, and say who — a landlord, for example — will be inquiring about your history. Or you can thaw the credit report for a given period of time — a week in which you're shopping for cars, for example.

A 2003 study for the Federal Trade Commission determined that in the previous year, 3.2 million Americans' personal information had been stolen by thieves who opened new accounts or loans. On average, victims lost \$1,180 and spent 60 hours resolving the problem.

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German-speaking Word is easy to fix

Q. My problem is with Microsoft Word. When I open "properties" to try to fix something, all of the commands are in German. I have to guess. How do I change these commands to English?

A. Dilemma

A. Genug mit der Deutsch also, eh? Mr. L? If your copy of Word suddenly spontaneously switched its menus and other prompts to German from English, yours wins the strange question of the day award. It's also the easy-fix winner.

Microsoft's code writers put all kinds of specialty commands for various modules of Office 2003 in a companion program called Microsoft Office Tools. It is located in the same folder under the Start/All Programs menu as is Office itself. Click the Office Tools icon and you'll get a number of items, including the scanner and photo import software, an application repair module and a program that lets users select a language.

Q. I am getting an error that says I have a problem with WMP. I've tried everything, but it's not working. I've tried to open the My Documents and My Computer folders, and when I run several other programs, if I

right-click and open through Explorer, they will open.

A. You problem lies with one of the support files for the Windows Media Player built into Windows XP even though it pops up

whenever you try to run many programs.

In essence, there is a small component of Windows called a dynamic link library that is trying to access other parts of Windows but these other components are not registered as part of the operating system.

The fix is to run several registration commands from the Run command line under the Start menu.

So click on Start and Run and then type in regsvr32 msdcm.ocx and click OK.

Now type in regsvr32 dxm.dll and click OK.

Next click on Start and Run again and type regsvr32 wmp.dll in the box.

Hit OK and type in regsvr32 wmpdm.dll and OK.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at coates@tribune.com or via mail at coates@tribune.com, 1000 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at www.chicagotribune.com/asjkm

Ask Jim

Jim Coates

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
	52-week	Low	High	Net
	Low	High	Low	High
Dow Jones Industrial	10,213.15	9,979.11	10,213.15	+21.46
S&P 500	1,212.42	1,192.38	1,212.42	+1.12
Nasdaq Composite	2,256.29	2,224.46	2,256.29	+1.12
Dow Jones Industrial	6,798.12	6,543.77	6,798.12	+1.12
Nasdaq Composite	1,278.58	1,258.75	1,278.58	+1.12
Nasdaq Composite	1,213.48	1,192.38	1,213.48	+1.12
S&P 500	1,163.23	1,142.84	1,163.23	+1.12
S&P 500	696.42	684.97	696.42	+1.12
Volatility	117.12	115.56	117.12	+1.12

NYSE				
	Most Active	(\$1 or more)	Most Active	(\$1 or more)
	Volume	Low	Volume	Low
Alcoa	3,367.50	17.11	3,367.50	17.11
Amgen	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
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Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12

NYSE				
	Most Active	(\$1 or more)	Most Active	(\$1 or more)
	Volume	Low	Volume	Low
Alcoa	3,367.50	17.11	3,367.50	17.11
Amgen	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
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Boeing	1,119.00	43.12	1,119.00	43.12
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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.2427
British pound	\$1.87
Japanese yen (Aug. 5)	\$1.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 4)	\$1,135.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	\$1.87
Canada (Dollar)	0.7137
Denmark (Krone)	6.46
Egypt (Pound)	2.9200
France (Euro)	0.7937
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8003
Hungary (Forint)	202.42
India (Rupee)	47.83
Israel (Shekel)	4.2088
Italy (Euro)	0.7137
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.7030
Norway (Krone)	4.75
Philippines (Peso)	55.84
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7161
South Korea (Won)	1,135.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2825
Taiwan (Dollar)	35.96
Turkey (Lira)	1,479,580.00

NASDAQ	
	Most Active
	Volume
Alcoa	3,367.50
Amgen	1,119.00
Boeing	1,119.00
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Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

TEACH kids about money and money concepts quickly. You should then emphasize the idea with concrete examples, such as showing them your pay stub when you talk about taxes.

Kids have a different sense of time when it comes to money. They live in the present. So instead of talking about long-term savings goals, start with short-term ones for the things they want.

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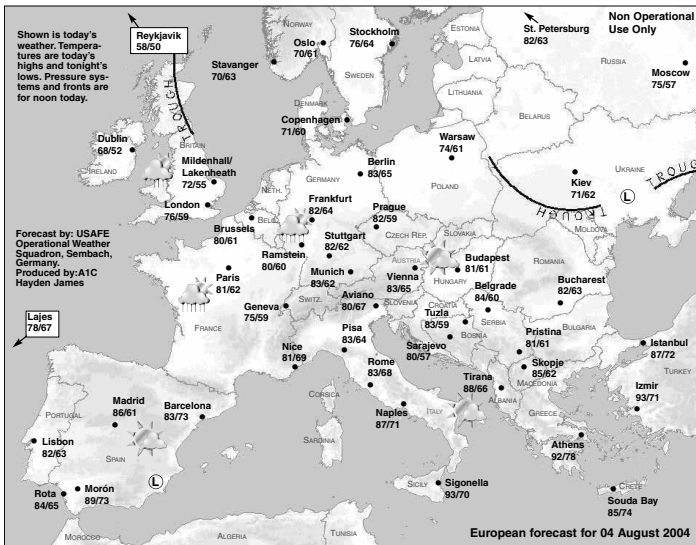
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Money tip of the day



KEY: Sunny P. City Mostly dry Cloudy Showers Tornado Rain Rainbow Snow Cold frnt. Warm frnt. Trough Occluded fr. Staty front Low High

AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	63	45	Mogadishu	81	74
Dakar	86	73	Nairobi	77	45
Freetown	81	75	Rabat	87	62
Antananarivo	85	68	Tripoli	100	72

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	77	62	Manila	88	77
Bahrain	110	89	Mexico City	78	61
Beijing	87	69	Montreal	78	61
Berlin	86	77	Riyadh	112	89
Bermuda	86	78	Rio de Jan	87	67
Calcutta	82	64	Saudi	89	77
Helsinki	86	72	Sofia	81	57
Hong Kong	81	61	Sydney	69	51
Lisbon	83	63	Tokyo	86	78

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Alabama	100	74	Delaware	82	63
Alaska	82	61	Florida	89	63
Arizona	92	61	Georgia	88	63
Arkansas	80	62	Idaho	85	63
California	88	64	Illinois	84	63
Colorado	95	66	Indiana	84	63
Connecticut	82	63	Iowa	84	63
D.C.	82	63	Kansas	84	63
Delaware	82	63	Kentucky	84	63
District of Columbia	82	63	Louisiana	84	63
Florida	89	63	Maine	84	63
Georgia	88	63	Massachusetts	84	63
Hawaii	84	63	Michigan	84	63
Idaho	85	63	Minnesota	84	63
Illinois	84	63	Mississippi	84	63
Indiana	84	63	Montana	84	63
Iowa	84	63	Nebraska	84	63
Kansas	84	63	Nevada	84	63
Kentucky	84	63	New Hampshire	84	63
Louisiana	84	63	New Jersey	84	63
Maine	84	63	New Mexico	84	63
Massachusetts	84	63	New York	84	63
Michigan	84	63	North Carolina	84	63
Minnesota	84	63	North Dakota	84	63
Mississippi	84	63	Ohio	84	63
Montana	84	63	Oklahoma	84	63
Nebraska	84	63	Oregon	84	63
Nevada	84	63	Pennsylvania	84	63
New Hampshire	84	63	Rhode Island	84	63
New Jersey	84	63	South Carolina	84	63
New Mexico	84	63	South Dakota	84	63
New York	84	63	Tennessee	84	63
North Carolina	84	63	Texas	84	63
North Dakota	84	63	Vermont	84	63
Ohio	84	63	Washington	84	63
Oklahoma	84	63	West Virginia	84	63
Oregon	84	63	Wisconsin	84	63
Pennsylvania	84	63	Wyoming	84	63
Rhode Island	84	63			
South Carolina	84	63			
South Dakota	84	63			
Tennessee	84	63			
Texas	84	63			
Vermont	84	63			
Washington	84	63			
West Virginia	84	63			
Wisconsin	84	63			
Wyoming	84	63			

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As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Fronts: High, Low, Cold, Warm, Trough, Occluded, Stationary, Squall

Weather: Sunny, Partly Sunny, Cloudy, Rain, Snow, Ice, Fog, Haze, Thunder

Wind: Light, Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, Gusty

Pressure: High, Low, Rising, Falling, Steady

Humidity: Dry, Comfortable, Humid, Very Humid

Visibility: Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor

Clouds: Clear, Partly Cloudy, Mostly Cloudy, Overcast

Temperature: Warm, Hot, Cold, Very Cold

Wind Speed: Light, Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, Gusty

Wind Direction: Light, Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, Gusty

Wind Gusts: Light, Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, Gusty

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No lobster diving!

FL KEY WEST — A woman who was upset about lobster divers in the canal behind her house in the Florida Keys was arrested after allegedly shooting at them with a handgun.

Mary Alice Workman fired a shot near a pontoon boat Thursday as others warned in the divers participating in the state's annual two-day sport lobster hunt, witnesses told investigators. No one was injured.

"That's my canal, and they have no business in there," Workman said. "They were taking the lobster, and we're not going to have no more lobsters."

Workman, 69, told police she had a .38-caliber handgun under her pillow. Officers confiscated the gun, a handheld flare gun and a BB gun.

She was charged Thursday with aggravated assault and discharging a firearm in public. She smiled for her mug shot, tried the night in the Monroe County Jail and was released Friday.

Murder suspect gets bail

CA HAYWARD — One of the three men charged with the murder of Newark transgender teenager Gwen Araujo has been granted \$1 million bail.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Harry Sheppard said Friday that Jason Cazares, also of Newark, had no prior criminal history and did not appear to be a flight risk.

The judge also set a new trial date for May 9.

The other defendants, Michael Magidson and Merel, remain held without bail.

The defendants, all 24 years old, face murder and hate crime charges in the October 2002 death of Araujo. Araujo was born with the first name Edward but the mother legally had it changed to Gwen after the teen's death.

Magidson and Merel had had sexual encounters with Araujo, and prosecutors said the three men killed Araujo after discovering she was biologically male.

Mother faces felonies

VA NEWPORT NEWS — A woman charged with allowing her 10-year-old daughter to drive a car that hit two children, killing one, is now facing felony charges.

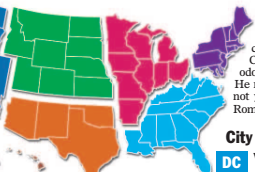
Prosecutors on Wednesday dropped a misdemeanor charge against Tonia Eldridge and charged her with felony child neglect for her role in the May accident, saying access to additional witnesses gave them information they needed to upgrade the charges.

Eldridge, 30, faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

Man steals girl's ramp

RI PROVIDENCE — A local man was sentenced to serve six months in prison after stealing a wheelchair ramp from a nine-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.

Michael L. Ferrara plead no contest to stealing the ramp from the girl's home in May. The Provi-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

dence Journal reported Friday. Superior Court Judge Netti Vogel sentenced him to six months to serve in prison, and another 54 months suspended on probation. He must pay \$900 in court assessments.

Police said the ramp disappeared from Natalie Medeiros' driveway on New London Avenue not long after Ferrara appeared at her door and tried to buy the ramp from her. Medeiros had been planning to use the ramp to help get her daughter in and out of the house.

Police found the ramp at a metal scrap yard, where Ferrara had sold it.

Officer shoots himself
NJ SPRINGFIELD — A police officer was accused of staging his own shooting after a security video showed no one else around at the time of the alleged assault.

Authorities said Officer Christopher LaFragola fired two shots into his bulletproof vest July 14, then radioed to headquarters that he had been shot, touching off a frantic hunt for a car carrying two suspects that didn't exist.

LaFragola, an 18-year veteran of the force in this Newark suburb, was charged with misconduct and could face seven years in prison.

He said he was ambushed by two people as he was checking out their car. Videotape from the surveillance camera at a nearby office building showed LaFragola's car — and no one else — in the area.

Hang in there
Campers Andie Clark, 12, helps her partner, Chelsea Hood, 13, up a challenging ropes course at Camp Shawnee near Parkville, Mo.

Hospital rooms at a low
TX LUFKIN — Texas' 10 state hospitals have been running at or near capacity for weeks, forcing counties to pay to transport psychiatric patients hundreds of miles to the nearest available bed, a newspaper reported Sunday.

At one point last week, the hospital in El Paso was the only one with any room, and all new patients had to be sent there, said Kenny Dudley, director of state mental health facilities with the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Department spokesman Don Rogers said the system traditionally sees high numbers of admissions at the end of every summer. But stretching capacity seems to be more than a seasonal problem at some hospitals.

The problem involves funding and staffing levels, rather than space, Rogers said. Hospitals only can hold as many patients as they have doctors and nurses to treat them.

The recently divorced officer is being treated at a psychiatric facility, Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said. He remains there and has not yet hired an attorney, Romankow said.

City heat going far

DC WASHINGTON —

Farmers often complain about the encroaching urban development, but a study indicates they may also benefit from a longer growing season as a result.

Cities have long been known to be warmer than surrounding rural areas. It's an effect known as the urban heat island that occurs when buildings, roads and other surfaces absorb heat in the daytime and release it slowly at night.

A team, led by research professor Xiaoyang Zhang, looked at about 70 cities in the Eastern states.

They found the warming effect was strongest near the Washington-Philadelphia-New York corridor, with spring greening occurring as much as 87 days earlier than in more distant farming areas.

The research was funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Animal activists upset

HI HONOLULU — Animal rights activists say they are outraged that three archers killed about 10 peacocks at Waimea Valley Audubon Center last week.

Center director Diana King said a decision was made to "trim" the population, which had grown to several dozen, and not to eliminate the birds.

King said center conservation manager Lance La Pierre consulted with people in the conservation community before killing the birds.

Goeghel said she was shocked the Audubon Society would choose to hunt birds down. The National Audubon Society took over the Oahu North Shore park in June 2001.

King said the center will look into other ways to control the peacock population in the future.



Free fallin'

Stunt-man Spanky Spangler makes a 150-foot jump from a crane located adjacent to the Finlen Hotel in Uptown Butte, Mont., during Evel Knievel Days.



I'll git you, varmint

Shots ring out as Dakota Territory bounty hunters and Montana Territory vigilantes square off in Main Street of Pioneer Village during a shoot-out at the North Dakota State Fair.



Lighting up

Lightning streaks across the sky as a thunderstorm moves through the area west of Tucson, Ariz., as seen from Saguaro National Park.



Heave ho Tim Johnson, of Kenai, Alaska, competes in the 16 lb. hammer throw at the 58th annual Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering in Enumclaw, Wash.



Making a splash A water balloon explodes as Bethany Scancerella, 34, of Litchfield, Me., tries to catch it during a KidsDay event in Capitol Park in Augusta, Maine.



Learning the ropes From left, Kyle Smith, 13, Clark Matthews, 12, Tyler Smith, 10, and Terry Matthews, 12, let go of a rope swing on Whiskeytown Lake near Redding, Calif.



Giddyap Colby Greenhalgh, 5, blows his frog along as he competes in the 5th annual First Congregational Church Frog Jumping Contest in Plainfield, Conn.

Alligator attacks

FL TAVARES — An 11-foot alligator attacked a man pulling weeds along the shore of a lake, but he saved himself by punching the beast in the nose.

Guy R. Daelemans, 43, suffered leg wounds in Tuesday's attack on Lake Eustis, Lake County sheriff's Lt. Todd Luce said. He was treated and released from a hospital.

A trapper summoned by wildlife officials later caught the 385-pound alligator, which was then killed.

Last week, a 54-year-old landscaper died of an infection, two days after a 12-foot alligator dragged her into a pond and nearly tore off her right arm as she worked behind a home on Sanibel Island.

That alligator was also trapped and killed.

Man gets the maximum

NY MONTICELLO — A 36-year-old man drew the maximum sentence after being convicted of sexually abusing an 8-year-old girl.

Edward Sieber maintained his innocence at last week's sentencing.

"These allegations are unfounded and untrue," Sieber told Sullivan County Judge Frank LeBretteau before being sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Sieber is also barred from any contact with the girl or her family.

A jury convicted Sieber last month of first-degree course of sexual conduct against a child, a felony.

The girl, who testified at Sieber's trial, reported the abuse to a school psychologist, who contacted police.

Drivers still adjusting

TX HOUSTON — It's taking the public some time to get used to the nation's first entirely automated tollway.

The whole eight-mile length of the Westpark Tollway is free of toll booths and toll plazas. Drivers instead must have a radio transponder tag on their windshields, so the \$2.25 toll can be collected electronically.

In the road's first two months, motorists have violated the transponder requirement 199,268 times, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday. That amounts to 11.3 percent of the more than 1.7 million trips drivers made during that period.

The tollway had to be automated because there was no room for toll booths on the road squeezed out part of an old railroad right of way.

Some experts have predicted that other cities and states could soon build their own automated tollways.

Atheist causes walk-out

FL TAMPA — Three Tampa city council members walked out of chambers rather than listen to an atheist give the invocation.

Council members Kevin White, Mary Alvarez and Rose Ferlita left their seats rather than listen to Michael R. Harvey, a member of Atheists of Florida, who had been invited by council member John Dingfelder to offer the invocation.

Before Harvey spoke, White refused to cancel the invocation.

White's motion to cancel the in-

ocation failed 2-4, supported only by him and Alvarez, who called White "very brave" for making the effort.

Ferlita voted to allow the invocation go on, but also walked out.

Mayor Pam Iorio, who did not attend the council meeting, said later the invocation should be reserved for speakers who invoke God.

Shootings sentence

MA WORCESTER — An Auburn man has been sentenced to 18 to 20 years in state prison after pleading guilty to shooting two men in a home improvement store last year.

Mark A. LeBreton, who was sentenced Thursday at Worcester Superior Court, pleaded guilty in May to four counts of armed assault with intent to murder and two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

On December 15 at a Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse in Worcester, LeBreton shot a neighbor and fellow contractor and a Lowe's employee who was standing nearby.

After the shooting, LeBreton led police on a 39-hour manhunt that stretched from central Massachusetts into the White Mountains of New Hampshire and ended in upstate New York.

New pet degrees offered

PA PITTSBURGH — Duquesne University is partnering with the Humane Society of the United States to offer degrees for people running animal shelters and other animal advocacy groups — the latest program designed to bring more professionalism to a business once only associated with the city pound and local dog catcher.

The university will offer an undergraduate bachelor's science degree in humane leadership and a graduate-level certificate in organizational leadership.

The Humane Society has been increasing efforts to train animal advocacy workers through its educational division, Humane Society University, which was started in 1999. The Gathersburg, Md.-based group already works with several other universities.

So far, the Humane Society has received 400 inquiries about the program and 43 applications, Traci Ojanen, director of Humane Society University's academic programs, said.

Park loses death case

HI HONOLULU — The National Park Service was liable for the drowning death of a New York woman who fell into a Maui stream and was swept out to sea, a federal judge in Honolulu ruled Monday.

Visiting U.S. District Judge Edward Rafeedie awarded \$2.3 million in damages in the May 4, 2002, death of Xina Wang at Haleakala National Park.

Wang, 42, fell while trying to cross Oheo Stream, and was swept over several waterfalls and out to sea, where she drowned.

Wang's husband, Timothy Wendt, 50, who also ended up in the ocean while attempting to rescue his wife, sued the park service, claiming rangers failed to warn visitors that the stream was running at a dangerously high level.

Stories and photos from wire reports



Comedian Al Franken launched his radio show, "The O'Franken Factor," in March on Air America Radio, an alternative to the mostly conservative world of talk radio. The show soon also will air on the Sundance Channel.

Cable channel to air Franken radio program

BY FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Statist-commentator Al Franken will return to his TV roots next month when his radio show begins appearing on cable's Sundance Channel.

Beginning Sept. 7, "The Al Franken Show," heard live each weekday from noon to 3 p.m. Eastern on Air America Radio, will go on display in a one-hour edition on Sundance each night at 11:30 p.m. and 2:30 a.m., executives at both networks told The Associated Press on Monday.

The "Franken" TV hour is currently scheduled through the November election, but all parties voiced hope the show would continue on Sundance indefinitely.

"It would be nice if it were a permanent home," Franken said.

A writer-performer who helped launch NBC's "Saturday Night Live" three decades ago, Franken in recent years has become identified as a left-leaning political humorist whose best-selling books include "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right."

He became a talk-show host when Manhattan-based Air America signed on in March as a response to the mostly conservative world of talk radio. At Air America, Franken joined a roster of other liberal personalities including actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo, radio veteran Randi Rhodes and Lizz Winstead, a co-creator of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central.

The Air America network includes stations in 17 markets that include New York, Miami, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Anchorage, Alaska, and, starting next week, San Diego. It also is heard on the XM and Sirius satellite radio networks, as well as through the Internet on streaming audio.

Distribution through Sundance will mean welcome added exposure for the show — known as "The O'Franken Factor" on the radio — and Air America overall, said Doug Kreeger, the network's chairman.

Each day, with co-host Katherine Lanpher, Franken offers irrelevant commentary, interviews and comedy segments often with an anti-Bush administration theme. "Anything I can do to get this guy out of office I'll do, and to get [Sen. John] Kerry in," he said.

Franken's partisan slant was somewhat beside the point in bringing him to Sundance, said Larry Aiden, president of the network (a venture between Robert Redford, NBC Universal and Showtime Networks Inc.).

More important, he said, was the effect the Franken show would have on broadening the scope of the network, whose primary focus is independent feature films and documentaries.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.com/>

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2004											
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)						
9:00 Dr. Phil	Mechanics for Kids	Nightline	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids						
9:30 Oprah Winfrey	Strange Days	Headline News		SpongeBob	Strange Days						
10:00 Guiding Light	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews		The Simpsons	Jeopardy!						
10:30 Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune			Happy Days	Headline News						
11:00 ESPNNews	ESPNNews	CNN Daybreak		The Amazing Race	ESPNNews						
11:30 General Hospital	Advisory Block				Pacific Report						
12:00 Headline News	The King of Queens	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	Andromeda	8 Simple Rules						
12:30 Judge Judy	The Bernie Mac Show				The Bernie Mac Show						
13:00 Today With Green; Matthew Lillard; Dax Shepherd; Today's Finest	Fear Factor	Good Morning America	Boxing Tuesday Night Fights	Mail Call	Fear Factor						
14:00	Las Vegas 'Grouchohog Summer'			Legends of Airpower	Las Vegas 'Grouchohog Summer'						
14:30				Secrets of War 'Battle of Britain'							
15:00 Between the Lions	Pacific Report	Headline News	SportsCenter	Movie *** 'Primal Fear' (1996, Suspense)	Pacific Report						
15:30 Teamo Supremo (E)	The Tonight Show	World News		Richard Gere, Laura Linney, John Maloney	The Tonight Show						
16:00 Mechanics for Kids	The Early Show		Totally NASCAR								
16:30 Strange Days	Late Show		NFL Live		Late Show						
17:00 Jeopardy!	Access Hollywood		SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys							
17:30 Headline News	Access Hollywood		SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Access Hollywood						
18:00 ESPNNews	Movie *** 'Victim of Love' (1991, Drama)	FOX News	ESPNNews	The Simpsons	Movie *** 'Victim of Love' (1991, Drama)						
18:30 AFN Evening News	Pure Genius, Jethro Williams, Virginia Madsen	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Happy Days	Pure Genius, Jethro Williams, Virginia Madsen						
19:00 8 Simple Rules			Real Sports	The Amazing Race							
19:30 The Bernie Mac Show											
20:00 Fear Factor	Movie *** 'Mr. Deeds Goes to Town' (1936, Comedy)	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	Andromeda	Movie *** 'Mr. Deeds Goes to Town' (1936, Comedy)						
20:30	Cooper, Jean Arthur										
21:00 Las Vegas 'Grouchohog Summer'		Headline News		Legends of Airpower							
21:30		Inside Politics		Secrets of War 'Battle of Britain'							
22:00 Headline News	The Hot List	NFL Live	The Hot List	The Hot List	The Hot List						
22:30 The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Movie *** 'Primal Fear' (1996, Suspense)	Headline News						
23:00	Today	Lester Holt	Around the Horn		Today						
23:30 Late Show		Pardon the Interruption									
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2004											
00:00 (11:30) Late Show	(11:00) Today	Headline News	SportsCenter	(11:00) Movie *** 'Primal Fear' (1996)	(11:00) Today						
00:30 Access Hollywood	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News									
1:00 MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)	Sesame Street (E)	ABC World News	NFL Live	The Wild Thornberrys	Sesame Street (E)						
1:30		CBS Evening News	ATP Tennis Tennis Masters Series - Western & Southern French Open Masters - Early Rounds	SpongeBob							
2:00 Play With Me Sesame	Countdown With Keith Urban	Countdown With Keith Urban		The Simpsons	Play With Me Sesame						
2:30				Happy Days	Fortune						
3:00 DC: Phil	Hannity & Colmes		World Sport	One Tree Hill	DC: Phil						
3:30											
4:00 Baseball Tonight	Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The West Wing 'California 47th'	Oprah Winfrey						
4:30		NBC Nightly News		Frontline 'Ghosts of Rwanda' Chronicle of the worst atrocities of the 20th century.							
5:00 Headline News	Judge Judy	BET Nightly News			NBC Nightly News						
5:30 ESPNNews	Access Hollywood	Business Rpt.		Judge Judy	Access Hollywood						
6:00 Headline News	Guiding Light	Larry King Live		Inspector Morse	Guiding Light						
6:30 Headline News				Deadly Slumber							
7:00 Sesame Street (E)	General Hospital	Nightline	NFL Live		General Hospital						
7:30											
8:00 Play With Me Sesame	60 Minutes II	Paula Zahn Now	SportsCenter	Inspector Morse	60 Minutes II						
8:30 Wheel of Fortune	The Weekenders (E)			Deadly Slumber	The Weekenders (E)						
9:00 Dr. Phil	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Nightline	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Yu-Gi-Oh!						
9:30	Jeopardy!	Armed & Dangerous		SpongeBob	Jeopardy!						
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	Hardball With Chris Matthews			The Simpsons							
10:30 Guiding Light	Wheel of Fortune			Happy Days	Headline News						
11:00 ESPNNews	60 Minutes II			One Tree Hill	ESPNNews						
11:30 General Hospital	Advisory Block				Pacific Report						
12:00 Headline News	Everybody-Round	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The West Wing 'California 47th'	Everybody-Round						
12:30 Judge Judy	Scrubs			Frontline 'Ghosts of Rwanda' Chronicle of the worst atrocities of the 20th century.	Scrubs						
13:00 Today Entertainment Report, It's CooTime.	My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance	Good Morning America	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance	Today Entertainment Report, It's CooTime.						
13:30				ER 'A Day Normal'							
14:00											
14:30											
15:00 Aashai Real Monsters	Pacific Report	Headline News	SportsCenter	Inspector Morse	Pacific Report						
15:30 The Weekenders (E)	The Tonight Show	World News		Deadly Slumber	The Tonight Show						
16:00 Yu-Gi-Oh!	The Early Show		Totally NASCAR		Late Show						
16:30 Mucha Lucha	Late Show		NFL Live								
17:00			SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys							
17:30 Headline News	Access Hollywood		SportsCenter	SpongeBob	Access Hollywood						
18:00 Destinations	Movie *** 'Casualties of War' (1989, Drama)	FOX News	ESPNNews	The Simpsons	Movie *** 'Casualties of War' (1989, Drama)						
18:30 AFN Evening News	Michael J. Fox, Sean Penn, Thuy Thu Le	60 Minutes II	Baseball Tonight	Happy Days	Michael J. Fox, Sean Penn, Thuy Thu Le						
19:00 Everybody-Round			MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	One Tree Hill							
19:30											
20:00 My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance	Movie *** 'Diamonds Are Forever' (1971, Adventure)	FOX News		The West Wing 'California 47th'	Movie *** 'Diamonds Are Forever' (1971, Adventure)						
21:00 ER 'A Day Normal'	Jill St. John, Lana Wood	Headline News		Frontline 'Ghosts of Rwanda' Chronicle of the worst atrocities of the 20th century.	Jill St. John, Lana Wood						
21:30											
22:00 Headline News	The Hot List	NFL Live	The Hot List	Headline News	The Hot List						
22:30 The Tonight Show	Headline News	Armed & Dangerous	NFL Live	Today Entertainment Report, It's CooTime.	The Tonight Show						
23:00	Today Entertainment Report, It's CooTime.	Lester Holt	Around the Horn								
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STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

Clinton asked to appear on 'SNL'

Former President Bill Clinton could be a host of the sketch comedy show "Saturday Night Live" this season.

At least, that's what the folks at NBC are hoping. TV Guide Online quotes anonymous sources saying that Clinton has been offered the gig if he wants it.

Meanwhile, Clinton was scheduled to appear on the "Late Show With David Letterman," a week after he addressed the Democratic National Convention in Boston. He also will be soldiering for his memoir, "My Life." Since its release on June 22, the book has sold over 1.5 million copies.

Clinton last appeared on Letterman's late-night show Sept. 11, 2002, the first anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Bryan 'Baby' Williams settles over jewelry bill

Grammy-nominated rapper Bryan "Baby" Williams has settled a lawsuit alleging he failed to pay \$85,000 for jewelry he ordered, court records show.

Williams and King's Jewelers in Bay Harbor Islands, near Miami Beach, settled for \$37,500, according to the records available Friday. Williams gets the jewelry and neither party admits liability or wrongdoing under the settlement.

Williams, also known as Birdman, ordered a \$23,500 pendant made of 18-karat white gold and large diamonds to form the initials BM, along with nine white gold, diamond-studded pendants inscribed with the name of his record label, Cash Money Records, worth \$54,000 total, the lawsuit in October alleged.

King's Jewelers alleged Williams ordered, approved, and suggested modifications for the custom jewelry but then failed to pick up or pay for his order.

Phish funds Vermont nonprofit groups

The charitable giving arm of the jam band Phish says it will donate less than \$100,000 of the proceeds from the band's final concert to nonprofit groups in Vermont.

Phish has already earmarked \$75,000 for groups including Bread and Puppet theater, Dairy Farmers of Vermont and the Vermont Foodbank, the WaterWheel Foundation announced Friday.

The balance will be donated to other nonprofit organizations in the region, according to the foundation.

Over 70,000 fans are expected to descend upon the town of Coweney in northeastern Vermont for the band's final concert, set for Aug. 14-15.

The WaterWheel Foundation, created by Phish in 1997, oversees the band's various charitable activities. The band's four members hail from Vermont.

'American Idol' reject sings in Macao

William Hung, who shot to instant fame as a reject on the U.S. talent show "American Idol," has debuted in Asia at a Macao casino.

Accompanied by sexy dancers in red tube tops, the Hong Kong-born singer belted out his most famous hit — an off-key rendition of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs" — at Kam Pei casino in Macao, local media reported Sunday.

"I don't mind having some people ridicule me," Hung was quoted as saying in the South China Morning Post.

Hung, a 21-year-old civil engineering student at the University of California at Berkeley, became famous after he responded to the mockery of "American Idol" judges by saying that he had done his best and had no regrets.

He went on to sign a singing contract with Fuse Music Network and Koch Records.

Asked why he thinks he's attractive, Hung told the Apple Daily newspaper: "I can dance and I'm sincere."

Celebrities show their appreciation

More than a dozen celebrities, including Bono, Jude Law and Bob Geldof, have signed an open letter thanking Prime Minister Tony Blair's government for its promise to boost aid to poor countries.

"It's unfashionable to congratulate politicians in public but we're going to do it anyway, to say thanks for increasing the funds available to tackle world poverty now and for committing to reach the U.N. aid-giving target by 2013 at the latest," said the letter, published in Monday's Independent newspaper.

Treasury Chief Gordon Brown announced last month that Britain would increase development aid to \$11.7 billion, or 0.47 percent of national income, by 2007. He said that by 2013 the country plans to meet a United Nations target of giving 0.7 percent of gross domestic product to aid poorer countries.

Stories and photos from wire services



Clinton

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Stories and photos from wire services

Natasha Duenas

One youthful singer brings on emotional charge to Latin music

BY JORDAN LEVIN KNIGHT

Knight Ridder/Tribune

MIAMI — You'd think lightning had struck the Latin music world. The electric charge is coming from Natasha Duenas, an unknown 16-year-old from Kendall, Fla., who writes songs of adolescent angst and sings them straight into people's hearts.

Emotion surges through when she sings, a flood of feeling so powerful that first-time listeners, even jaded music industry veterans, often find their jaws dropping and tears rising.

Recently Natasha sang for a crowd of Latin music movers and shakers at the South Beach offices of the powerful William Morris Talent Agency.

"What if I were perfect?" she wailed, a punk rag doll with her enormous eyes, painted sneakers and denim miniskirt. The cocktail chatter stopped, and some people's mouths just stayed open.

"I've got so much to tell you, that I don't know where to start," she sang, lovingly belting over soaring note. When she finished they took a collective breath and applauded. She was perfect. They would listen to anything she had to say.

Natasha, who has dreamed of being a rock star since she was 8, says she's not surprised that she has the Latin music world buzzing, or by the astonishing string of events that has earned her a major label record deal.

"I'm ready — I was born ready," she says, with her characteristic mix of naivete and confident gravity. "It's my destiny."

Destiny is as good an explanation as any for the top-goo-to-be true story of her discovery.

Last summer her father, Guillermo Duenas, told a client at his Kendall hair salon, Marta Merlo, about his talented daughter. Merlo offered to take Natasha's demo to her neighbor, Jorge Pino, president of EMI Music U.S. Latin, and she delivered it one night.

"I said 'My God, who is that?'"

Pino remembers. He asked to see Natasha the next day. He had been looking for a young female artist that could replace the now grown-up Shakira in teenagers' hearts. When Natasha showed up with her guitar and her punk mini-skirt and black-painted eyes, playing her own songs, he knew he'd found her.

"She walked like a star into my office," Pino says. "She was so natural."

"It was kind of like I was on a TV show," says Natasha. "I was very nervous. I remember he said 'This is round one.' It was like a dream, but it was real."

The dream has been getting rapidly more real in the last few weeks. Recently three of Natasha's songs went on sale in online music stores, and a single, "Lagrimas" (Tears), has gone to radio. In July she was on an AOL Latino concert series that usually features stars like Gloria Estefan. And all the while she has had to juggle school finals.

"Although her album is called 'Imperfecta/Imperfect,' Natasha is perfect for the Latin music world. Like its mainstream cousin, the Latin music business is floundering, sales sliding no matter how carefully the industry devises marketing strategies for one elaborately concocted pop figure and radio-ready songs for another. A raw talent like Natasha, with songs straight out of her teenage psyche and her gut-wrenching voice, seems like a near-miracle."

The girl who could be the next big thing is the daughter of an Argentine father and a Cuban-American mother who grew up in Kendall with her three siblings (Jenny, 26, Jonathan, 14 and Michelle, 13).

She was always shy.

"Of all of them she's always been the most quiet about showing her emotions," says her mother Yousi. But she was ex-

pressing herself musically before she could talk. As a toddler, she babbled an original melody her parents called the "hushia" song after its baby-talk refrain.

She attended a strict Christian elementary school where even Christian rock — forget Nirvana — was forbidden. She constantly got detention for humming. "It was something I couldn't control, kind of like breathing," Natasha says, sitting in her bedroom, the walls papered with a mix of dark-side rock star posters — Kurt Cobain, David Bowie, Marilyn Manson — and a teddy bear calendar her mother gave her.

At 8, she was having rock 'n' roll dreams, pounding the piano and singing to a cousin's karaoke machine. At 13, she persuaded her parents to get her a guitar. A few months later she started her mother by asking if she'd like to hear a song she'd written, "Definition of Life." "I thought it was amazing," her mother said.

"It just kind of happened," says Natasha. "I would just start singing something whenever I wanted to express myself. 'Cause I don't like to tell other people about personal things. So I'd write it down and sing it and that's how I'd let it out."

Part of what makes Natasha's songs so powerful is their combination of adolescent, even childlike, emotion with maturity. "I've got nothing left," she sings in "Lagrimas," portraying a woman destroyed by love, then wails "Why aren't you here?" with all the uncomprehending agony of a child left alone. She wrote "Imperfect" after her mother yelled at her to clean up her room, but lines like

"Drunk off my imperfections, I'll never be all right" speak to the insecurity of anyone.

"I feel all my songs — I'm a real person," Natasha says. "Any little thing even though I may not show it, it comes out in my songs."

Natasha Duenas is taking the Latin music world by storm.

MIAMI HERALD/KRT



Hung

Asked why he thinks he's attractive, Hung told the Apple Daily newspaper: "I can dance and I'm sincere."

Celebrities show their appreciation

More than a dozen celebrities, including Bono, Jude Law and Bob Geldof, have signed an open letter thanking Prime Minister Tony Blair's government for its promise to boost aid to poor countries.

"It's unfashionable to congratulate politicians in public but we're going to do it anyway, to say thanks for increasing the funds available to tackle world poverty now and for committing to reach the U.N. aid-giving target by 2013 at the latest," said the letter, published in Monday's Independent newspaper.

Treasury Chief Gordon Brown announced last month that Britain would increase development aid to \$11.7 billion, or 0.47 percent of national income, by 2007. He said that by 2013 the country plans to meet a United Nations target of giving 0.7 percent of gross domestic product to aid poorer countries.

Stories and photos from wire services



Horoscope

The Leo sun and Aries moon are a boost to the body and a shot of white heat to the mind. You could finally hop out of bed ready for that early morning jog or scan the newspaper and retain the information long enough to have a clever, topical quip to toss in at the board meeting. Why can't every day be this super-charged?

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 4). You'll kick off this new cycle with an energetic adventure. You're driven to get to the top of the proverbial mountain, and friends beside you provide the oxygen tanks when you're so high the air is thin. You'll be making more money in September, and it's easy to get carried away. Be frugal instead, and you'll be in a prime position at the first of the year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your expectations of love are high, but no worries—they'll be met. Keeping your standards of treatment up is easy, and you attract people who respect themselves enough to give you the respect you deserve, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The morning stirs up all kinds of nostalgia and other such emotions. Imaginary things seem real, so just remind yourself every once in a while that life can be very much like a dream. You're in control of what you feel.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Even the most steadfast people are changing their minds based on factors that cannot be proven. Your inner voice is shouting instead of whispering. You may as well do what it says, since it's not going away until you do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Autonomy is the theme. People close to you who love to control everyone around them will zap your resources. Your energy returns when you are left alone to do it your way in your own time. Loving relationships are highlighted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). High spirits and go-getter energy carry you forward. When you keep person-

al commitments, others realize you have a life and can't be expected to jump when given the command. Romance charges your imagination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

There is a lot of lush stuff going on in the world, and escaping to the fantasy of entertainment will be appealing. After work, you may feel like running home, locking the door, watching videos and eating popcorn.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're extremely obliging, handing everything you should, but somehow, it doesn't give you that warm and satisfying sense of contribution. At some point, you've got to stop and wonder, "Whose idea was this anyway?"

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A change in emotions or a change in health is featured. You're the architect of this change, so there's no need to feel like life is happening to you. You're masterful at controlling your destiny through your choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Surprising events wake you up like a bucket of water to the face—wow! Why didn't you ever notice this before? Perhaps you've been sleeping walking. Now that you're aware, new options open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This day holds magic, beauty and wisdom—if you're perceptive enough, that is. Go at a slow pace, and you'll experience more. Be careful with money. What you buy this afternoon could affect your finances in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Discoveries are featured in your outside and inner world—it's a kick to find hidden treasures of one sort or another. At first, you may want to keep your findings to yourself, as it makes the lesson more richly meaningful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your need for nurturing and love is a constant, but you're learning that it can be fulfilled in many different ways. Ultimately, it's you who will give this to yourself.

Keep exploring. Write down your revelations and goals.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



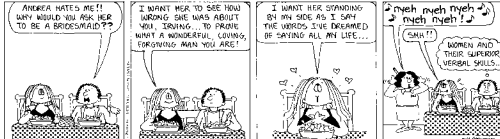
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



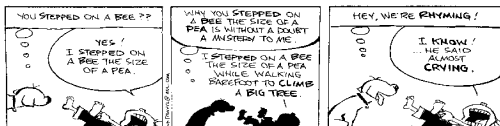
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



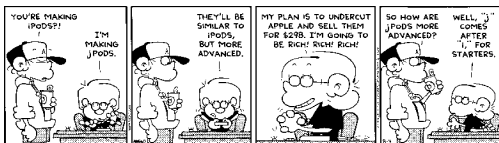
Red and Rover



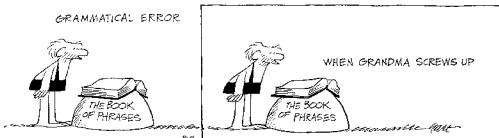
Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



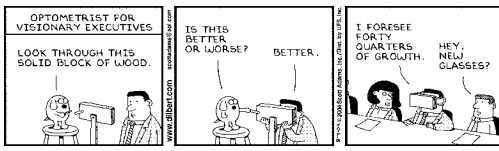
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



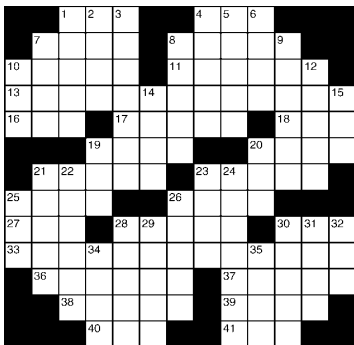
Blagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Morse morsel
- 4 Recede
- 7 Prince Charles' pastime
- 8 Warfare enhancer (Var.)
- 10 Estimate
- 11 Put on a pedestal
- 13 Eastern capital
- 16 Favorite
- 17 Makes a statement
- 18 Shooter ammo
- 19 Wharf
- 20 Highland household
- 21 Roman septon
- 23 Wasn't colorfast
- 25 Gist of a letter
- 26 Lights-out melody
- 27 "Little Women" woman
- 30 Legendary peeper
- 33 Western capital
- 36 Heavy hammer
- 37 "Love Story" author Segal
- 38 More crafty
- 39 Trig function
- 40 Bygone speedster

Down

- 1 Uncertainty
- 2 Gymnast Korbut acronym
- 3 Pedicurist's concern
- 4 Quilt stuffing
- 5 Groucho wiggled his
- 6 Put under
- 7 Ashen
- 8 Less loony
- 9 Streisand classic
- 10 Diastema
- 12 Phobia
- 14 Designer St. Laurent
- 15 Nebr. neighbor
- 19 Thickness
- 20 Sam Goody wares
- 21 Great Lakes
- 22 Pastoral poetry
- 23 Gambling game
- 24 Suitability
- 25 Scrooge's reaction
- 26 Circus staffer
- 28 Griffith and Williams
- 29 Actress Debra
- 30 Contaminate
- 31 Never again?
- 32 Jongg precursor
- 34 Lampreys
- 35 Small combo

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	R	A	W	P	I	P	S	E	A	S
A	U	R	A	E	S	E	P	U	T	T
S	T	I	R	K	A	N	G	A	R	O
S	H	A	M	P	O	O	A	R	O	M
T	O	E	A	N	T					
Y	A	C	H	T	B	U	G	A	B	O
A	L	A	F	I	X	U	R	N		
K	E	R	C	H	O	O	H	A	S	T
	R	E	X	S	A	D				
A	M	O	U	R	S	K	I	D	D	O
W	A	T	E	R	L	O	O	U	R	S
O	M	I	T	A	D	A	C	U	L	T
L	E	S	S	P	A	L	E	G	O	S

8-4

CRYPTOQUIP

XYW AYWRV DLOZDHI
GUOG GUI RWLPKNSFM
SYWRV NYFDHXRZ PI FHYAH

OM GKIIGYGORIKM
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A NEW MOVIE REGARDING A VENDOR OF DEER MEAT WAS CALLED "THE MERCHANT OF VENISON."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

Pal just can't leave politics alone

Dear Abby: A woman I have known for 10 years has different political beliefs from mine. I haven't viewed this as a reason to end the friendship. I just don't bring up the subject of politics with her. She, on the other hand, constantly "slams" my beliefs, in person and via e-mail.

I have recently received several offensive letters from her. I didn't respond and she keeps prodding me for a reaction. Believe me, she doesn't want to hear what I have to say about her behavior. I have asked her to stop pushing her opinions on me and still she persists.

I feel that her antics are extremely disrespectful, and I'm to the point of ending communication with her altogether. What have you to say on this issue?

— Harassed in Houston

Dear Harassed: Tell her that the subject of politics is "ver-

boten" until after the election. There's a reason for that old warning, "Don't discuss sex, religion or politics." It can end friendships. She's not going to change your views, and you aren't going to change hers.

Although she may be doing this to get a rise out of you, it's disrespectful and a touch malicious.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I have several good friends. Whenever a friend starts to become "clingy," I start to withdraw and even try to avoid them.

By "clingy," I mean they phone one or more times a day. Sometimes it's people who expect me to go with them all the time, or "oh, ways" sit by them at gatherings or events. Not all my friends act this way, and I have great relationships with those few who don't.

How can I convey to the others

that I like my space and feel intrusive if upon when they become clingy? I try to laugh it off, but it wears on my nerves, and then I feel guilty for feeling the way I do.

— Feeling Bad in Texas

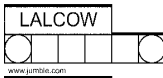
Dear Feeling Bad: When people call too frequently, draw the line by telling them you are too busy to talk and will call them when it's convenient. When you feel encroached upon, explain to those who expect you to accompany them "all the time," that you have other plans.

Not all relationships need the same amount of care and feeding. The people with whom you interact need to learn to respect your boundaries. But in order for that to happen, you must level with your friends about your feelings and not beat yourself up for doing so.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: CHANT FIFTY PRAYER BEACON

Answer: Where the fire trimmer applied for the bank loan — THE "BRANCH" OFFICE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Considering finding her father

Dear Annie: I'm a 13-year-old girl who needs your advice. I have never known my biological father, but my stepfather has been there for me ever since I was born. I consider him my father and call him "Dad," even though my parents are now divorced.

Dad occasionally picks us up from Mom's to go out. Lately, however, he's been coming by just to get my younger brother. I understand.

That's his real son. But it bothers my mom a lot, and she recently asked me if I would like to find my biological father. I love my dad so much, but I would like to find my real father. However, if I try to locate him, I'm afraid it would hurt Dad's feelings.

Dear Searching: You sound very mature for your age, but we sense it also bothers you that Dad comes by "just to get your young brother." The next time he does this, you ought to tell him how you feel. He needs to know.

Annie's Mailbox



Meanwhile, it's OK to search for your biological father. Don't worry about hurting Dad's feelings. He'll be OK with it. But be cautious. You may have fantasies about your biological father that are unrealistic. Try not to expect too much.

Dear Annie: Millions of children are heading back to school this fall without health insurance coverage. Uninsured children are more likely to go without eye exams and important annual checkups and are less likely to receive care for common childhood illnesses. If something were to seriously affect their health, the medical costs could quickly plunge their families into bankruptcy.

Covering Kids & Families is a national program sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that connects these children with low-cost and free health insurance. These programs are available in every

state and the District of Columbia. Even though more than 8.5 million children in the United States are currently uninsured, most of them could actually be covered at little or no cost to their parents through the government-funded State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid.

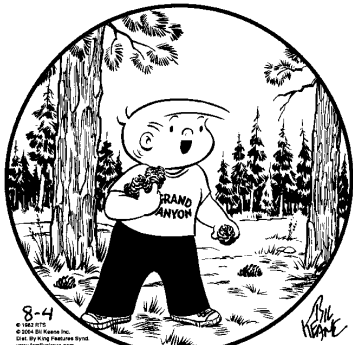
Parents can call 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7699) toll-free (coveringkidsandfamilies.org) to find out if their children qualify.

Together I know we can help millions of uninsured children. — Sarah Shuptrine, Director, Covering Kids & Families, Columbia, S.C.

Dear Sarah Shuptrine: We are happy once again to mention Covering Kids & Families. Readers, if your children do not have health care coverage, please call today to find out if you are eligible.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime Editors of the Los Angeles column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"It smells like Christmas here."

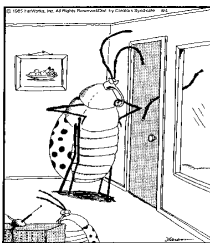


Demis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Oh, for heaven's sake! Your father left in such a hurry this morning he's lost another antenna."

Non Sequitur



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McCarty's three-run homer is perfect gift for Wakefield

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — David McCarty took full advantage of a start against Tampa Bay left-hander Mark Hendrickson.

McCarty, making his 25th start of the season, hit a three-run homer to back up seven solid innings by knuckleballer Tim Wakefield in the Boston Red Sox's 6-3 victory over the Devil Rays on Monday night.

"He's a pro," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

McCarty homered in the second inning after Tim Lincecum made it 2-0 with a two-run homer off Wakefield (7-6) in the first.

"The offense did great in getting me back in the ballgame," Wakefield said.

McCarty was 1-for-2 against Hendrickson (8-9) on Monday night and is 3-for-4 with two homers and seven RBIs overall against the left-hander.

"It's only been four at-bats, but I seem to see the ball pretty well off him," McCarty said. "But such a limited number of at-bats, it's hard to really say why, but it worked out well today."

McCarty hit a liner that barely cleared the center-field wall.

"Good thing we're not at Fenway right now," Boston outfielder Johnny Damon said. "It would be a long single."

Wakefield allowed three runs, four hits, four walks and struck out three on his 38th birthday. He has won 10 of 11 career decisions against Tampa Bay.

"Lucky, I guess," Wakefield said. Wakefield moved past Luis Tiant for third place on the franchise list with 239 starts and also became the 19th active pitcher to reach 2,000 innings.

Kevin Youkilis had a two-run double during a three-run fly to help the Red Sox rebound from two straight losses to AL Central-leading Minnesota. Boston trails the Yankees by nine games in the AL East and Texas by a half-game in the wild-card race.

Hendrickson (9-9) allowed six runs and six hits in 4 1/2 innings. He had complete-game victories in two of his three previous starts.

"Two bad pitches ... multiple runs," Hendrickson said.

After Alan Benitez retired two batters in the eighth, Keith Foulke got the final four outs for his 17th save in 22 opportunities.

Foulke is 1-3 with seven saves and five blown saves since May 30.



Tampa Bay Devil Rays shortstop B.J. Upton, right, works with coach Tom Foley before the start of Monday's game against the Boston Red Sox. Upton, 19, was 1-for-3 and scored a run in his major league debut.

Lilly breaks winless skid

The Associated Press

TORONTO — All-Star Ted Lilly won for the first time in more than a month and Vernon Wells homered before leaving with a calf injury as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Cleveland Indians 6-1 Monday.

Cleveland starter Cliff Lee (10-4) threw his hat and glove into the stands after allowing six runs on nine hits in 4 1/2 innings. The third straight start he's been rocked.

Wells left the game after fouling a ball off his left calf in the fifth inning. He was listed as day-to-day with a bruise.

Wells hit a three-run homer off Lee in the first. Josh Phelps followed with his 12th home run, the first time this year Toronto has hit consecutive homers.

Lilly (8-7) won for the first time since June 28, a span of six starts. The left-hander allowed one run and three hits in seven innings.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League					Red Sox 6, Devil Rays 3				
East Division					BOSTON TAMPA BAY				
W	L	Pct	GB	D	W	L	Pct	GB	D
New York	57	48	.539		Damon	4	12	.250	1
Boston	57	47	.548	9	Youkilis	3	12	.200	1
Texas	56	47	.545	10	Ortiz	5	10	.333	0
Baltimore	46	57	.447	19 1/2	Minnifield	4	10	.286	0
Toronto	46	57	.447	19 1/2	Miller	4	10	.286	0
Central Division					Merrill	4	10	.286	0
Minnesota	53	49	.520	5	Muehle	2	10	.167	0
Chicago	49	53	.480	7	Blum	2	10	.167	0
St. Louis	49	53	.480	7	Lugo	2	10	.167	0
Kansas City	50	45	.476	9 1/2	Total				
Detroit	46	56	.449	12	34	6	.857	0	0
Seattle	46	56	.449	12	200	610	300	0	0
West Division					Tampa Bay				
Oakland	57	46	.553	1 1/2	3	12	.200	1	0
Texas	46	53	.462	11 1/2	Tampa Bay 6	29	Yokulis	10	HR-MC
Anaheim	56	46	.547	1 1/2	15	15	15	15	15
Seattle	39	67	.367	20	Lugo	(15)	IP	H	R
Monday's games					Boston				
Toronto 6, Cleveland 3					W-J-6	7	4	3	3
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 3					Embro	1	0	0	0
Tuesday's games					Tampa Bay				
Seattle at Baltimore, OH					W-J-6	7	4	3	3
Oakland at Toronto					W-J-6	7	4	3	3
Boston at Tampa Bay					W-J-6	7	4	3	3
Anaheim at Minnesota					W-J-6	7	4	3	3
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City					W-J-6	7	4	3	3
Wednesday's games					National League				
Seattle (Ericsson 6-0) at Detroit (Johnson 8-8)					East Division				
Seattle (McEne 1-5) at Baltimore (Cabrera 8-5)					Atlanta	58	46	.558	
Cleveland (Harden 8-5) at Toronto (Twins 6-1)					Philadelphia	58	46	.558	
Oakland (Watters 5-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Lincecum 4-9)					Florida	52	52	.500	6
Boston (Arroyo 4-7) at Tampa Bay (Hale 4-9)					Montreal	48	56	.458	11 1/2
Anaheim (Sele 6-6) at Minnesota (Holt 4-9)					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox (Schoeneweis 6-8) at Kansas City (Anderson 1-9)					St. Louis	67	37	.644	
Thursday's games					Houston	57	53	.519	
Seattle at Detroit					Cincinnati	57	53	.519	
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees					Cincinnati	51	54	.486	10 1/2
Anaheim at Minnesota					Los Angeles	49	47	.509	
Seattle at Tampa Bay					San Diego	58	47	.552	1 1/2
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City					Colorado	47	55	.458	14 1/2

Monday Blue Jays 6, Indians 1

CLEVELAND					TORONTO				
Crisp	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Billard	2	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Alfonso	2	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Hafner	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Harmon	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Griffith	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Harmon	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Birch	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Smorre	4	0	1.000	0	4	0	1.000	0	0
Totals					31	6	.839	0	0
Wednesday's games					Thursday's games				
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For Twins, nobody rocks like this Santana

AL's strikeout leader emerging as one of baseball's elite lefties

BY LA VELLE E. NEAL III
 Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

When Minnesota Twins left-hander Johan Santana pitches, it's an event.

"He makes the best hitters in the game look silly," Twins catcher Matthew LeCroy said.

When Santana gives up more than four hits in a start, it's news.

"It was good before, but ... wow," Boston Red Sox outfielder Johnny Damon said. "Before, I felt like I had a decent chance against him."

If Santana leaves a game before the seventh inning, it's a shock.

"I now consider Johan Santana to be right up there with (Oakland's) Mark Mulder as the best left-hander in the league," said Art Stewart, a senior adviser for the Kansas City Royals.

As Santana tears through the league this season, observers are gushing more than Kelly Ripa.

"His fastball is in the upper 90s and he has a great slider he can throw you at any time," Royals first baseman Mike Sweeney said.

"He's a power pitcher, just like (Arizona's) Randy Johnson. He's got a parachute changeup, and Randy Johnson doesn't have that. He's definitely the best lefty in the league."

The best starting pitchers log a lot of innings and thrive in big games. Santana was instrumental in helping the Twins win the American League Central last season with a strong second half. On Sunday, he matched Red Sox star right-hander Pedro Martinez. Both gave up two runs; Martinez struck out 11, Santana 12.

"I was very impressed and very happy for him, to see him develop the way he has," Martinez said.

His development is reflected in the numbers he has posted.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Santana is the first pitcher since 1961 to post 10 starts in which he has given up four or fewer runs and hits. Since the All-Star break, opponents are batting .108 against him. Since June 3, he's 8-2 with a 1.50 ERA and 112 strikeouts in 84 innings.

Ah, those strikeouts. Santana leads the AL with 173, and he's only seven behind Johnson for the major-league lead.

"It's good to be compared to Randy Johnson," Santana said. "And it's wonderful to be compared to all the best pitchers in the game."



Minnesota Twins left-hander Johan Santana, 10-6 with a 3.30 ERA, leads the American League with 173 strikeouts, and his opponents' on-base average of .263 is the lowest among AL starting pitchers.

Santana could be the first Twin to lead the American League in strikeouts since Camilo Pascual in 1963. Santana can break the Twins' season record of 258 strikeouts, set in 1972 by Bert Blyleven, and he can be the first Twin to strike out at least 200 in a season since Blyleven in 1986.

Here are a few reasons why Santana is piling up so many strikeouts.

■ **The fastball:** Santana's fastball has been clocked consistently at 93 to 94 miles per hour, hitting any spot he wants with it. "He's able to sink his fastball, too," Damon said.

■ **The changeup:** There are hackers on the golf courses with better swings than the ones Santana forces when he throws his 78 mph changeup. He throws it with the same motion as his fastball, and batters look awkward when they swing at something that's slower than anticipated and is breaking downward (the parachute) at the last moment. "It is dynamic," White Sox first baseman Paul Konerko said.

"It is one of the best around." ■ **The slider:** Hitters have discovered this season that Santana's slider has become a factor, too. LeCroy actually called it Santana's control pitch. "When it comes out of his hand, it looks like a fastball," Sweeney said. "Then it's broken down and in, and you see it's his slider."

"He's a power pitcher, just like (Arizona's) Randy Johnson. He's got a parachute changeup, and Randy Johnson doesn't have that. He's definitely the best lefty in the league."

Mike Sweeney
 Royals first baseman

"That's when you know you are growing up as a pitcher," Anderson said. "You are commanding your stuff and are recognizing what hitters are trying to do. He's getting there. The numbers don't lie about what he's done the last couple of months. He has the stuff."

Last Tuesday, Santana helped the Twins beat the White Sox 7-3 with mostly his fastball and slider. Sometimes he'll keep throwing his changeup until it comes around. That time, he junked it and used his other pitches.

"It's not very often you can go from one above-average pitch to another," Konerko said.

Santana's arrival as a top-tier pitcher has come at a time when the Twins have been careful not to overuse him coming off surgery. But it's hard to pull him from games when he's dominating. Twins manager Ron Gardenhire knows what he has in Santana, but worries as soon as Santana passes 100 pitches in a start.

"As a manager, you have to look out for the long-term health of the pitcher," Gardenhire said. "That's what makes it hard, but I'm not going to overuse the kid."

Santana is aware, too. He has become one of the best strikeout artists in the game.

"It's amazing," Santana said. "To be in the top of the league in front of those guys, that means something is going right. I'm having fun and I'm not even trying to do much. Everything is coming together."

Twins have one of a kind in Santana

Minnesota ace Johan Santana entered June with a 5.79 ERA. Since then, the left-hander has lowered his ERA to 3.30 with a dazzling two-month stretch that rivals some of the best pitching performances in major league history.

Date	Opponent	W/L	IP	H	R	E	R	BB	SO
June 3	Tampa Bay	W	7 ² / ₃	4	4	4	4	7	10
June 9	N.Y. Mets	W	7	6	1	1	0	10	7
June 15	at Montreal	W	8	3	2	2	0	7	7
June 20	at Milwaukee	W	8	4	2	2	2	12	7
June 25	Milwaukee	W	7	4	1	1	0	10	10
July 1	Chicago White Sox	L	8	3	2	2	2	12	7
July 6	Kansas City	W	9	3	0	3	2	13	13
July 11	Detroit	L	8	2	2	2	2	11	11
July 17	at Kansas City	W	8	1	1	0	4	9	9
July 22	Tampa Bay	W	7	3	1	1	1	3	10
July 27	at Chicago White Sox	W	6	2	1	1	2	6	8
Aug. 1	Boston	W	8	2	3	2	1	12	12

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Ailment pushes Smarty Jones into retirement

BY HAL BOCK

The Associated Press

Smarty Jones ran himself out of a long career.

His fragile hoofs no longer able to endure the constant pounding that brought him within a length of the Triple Crown, the 3-year-old red chestnut colt was retired from the sport Monday — before he had a chance to come to Texas.

Diagnosed with bone bruises in all four hoofs, the winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness will stand stud at Three

Chimneys Farm, occupying the stall of Seattle Slew, the only undefeated Triple Crown winner in history.

It's an appropriate spot for the horse who recovered from a life-threatening accident early in his career and won every race until his last one — a one-length loss to Birdstone in the Belmont Stakes.

Trainer John Servis had plans for the spunky colt who nearly died a year ago when he fractured his skull in a starting gate accident. But the persistent bruising problem caused him to be scratched from the Pennsylvania Derby on Sept. 5 at Phila-

delphia Park, his home track.

Still, Servis hoped to run him in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas, on Oct. 30, with perhaps a warmup in the Super Derby at Louisiana Downs or the Pegasus in New Jersey. Those plans ended abruptly when a bone scan Thursday revealed the chronic bruising problem.

Servis was heartbroken.

"It hurts me," Servis said. "He could do so much so effortlessly. He might be the best of all time. It's unfortunate people won't see that. I know he's a great horse. I just

hope it carries over to the breeding shed. "He was an exceptional individual. It hurts but you have to move on."

Dr. Larry Bramlage treated Smarty Jones and said the injury is the result of accumulated inflammation in the fetlocks that serve as a horse's shock absorbers. "We bring horses back from this all the time," Bramlage said. "It's not a structural problem and the prognosis for full recovery is excellent. He needs to have an opportunity to move around in the field for a while. They have to have a break."

Smarty Jones' break will be permanent.

Released info in Bryant trial might damage accuser's case

BY DAVE ZELLO

The Associated Press

DENVER — Transcripts released from a closed two-day hearing in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case provide rare detail of the fierce battles over evidence, including a candid assessment by the prosecution about its chances should the judge rule on a number of issues.

District Judge Jerry Ruckriegle withheld 68 lines of some 200 pages of June 21-22 testimony dealing in part with Colorado's rape-shield law. Most of the transcripts were released Monday.

"If in fact you were to rule that all of the rape-shield evidence were going to come in in this case, I'm thinking the prosecution is going to sit down and re-evaluate the quality of its case and its chances of a successful prosecution," prosecutor Ingrid Bakke told the judge.

However, a prosecution spokeswoman cautioned Tuesday that the transcripts provide only limited details. "It is one-sided information, and we hope that people will keep that in mind," spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said. "That's what the trial is for."

Bakke's comments were included in transcripts that were mistakenly e-mailed by a court reporter to The Associated Press and six other news organizations, which battled Ruckriegle to the U.S. Supreme Court to publish the contents.

In releasing the transcripts, Ruckriegle said he concluded he must disclose the details despite concerns about compromising the privacy rights of Bryant's accuser and the Los Angeles Lakers star's right to a fair trial.

"It is with great reluctance that this court releases these transcripts," Ruckriegle wrote. "The effect of this release is to present narrowly limited, one-sided evidence and argument to the public prior to the se-

lection of a jury and without reference to the totality of the evidence."

There was no comment on the transcripts from the woman's attorneys. Attorney Lin Wood did not immediately return a call and voicemail for attorney John Chune was full.

Nathan Siegel, an attorney for the media groups, said the transcripts, which Judge Ruckriegle made clear that our persistence in pursuing this to the Supreme Court has led to releasing a significant amount of information that had been restrained."

The woman's counsel said the end of a hearing that dealt primarily with the accuser's sexual activities around the time of her June 30, 2003, encounter with Bryant.

The defense has claimed the woman had multiple sexual partners in the three days surrounding her time with Bryant. It has suggested her injuries could have been caused during sex with someone other than him.

Her lawyer has denied she had sex after the alleged assault.

It has long been known that another man's semen was found on the woman and her underwear during a hospital exam following the alleged assault.

Prosecutors have theorized that the woman might have put on underwear that hadn't been washed before going to the hospital, transferring semen from the man identified as "Mr. X" to her body.

However, during the June hearing, defense expert Elizabeth Johnson said she didn't think that was likely because none of that semen was found on Bryant, suggesting the woman's encounter with the other man followed her encounter with the NBA star.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with the woman, now 20, at a Vail-area resort last summer. If convicted, he faces four years in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Wizards' Brown suffers injury in pickup game

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards forward Kwame Brown broke a bone in his right foot during a pickup game in Georgia last week and was scheduled to have surgery on Tuesday.

"Our doctors are confident that the surgery will be successful and that Kwame will be ready for training camp in October," General Manager Ernie Grunfeld said Monday.

Grunfeld said Brown was playing with some college players last Sunday when he "turned to run and felt something pop."

Brown notified the Wizards the next day, and the team waited until the swelling had gone down to schedule the operation.

"He was in great shape," Grunfeld said. "It was unfortunate that it happened, but it was something that happened. We'll deal with it and rehab it and move forward."

Brown, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 draft, set career highs by averaging 10.9 points and 7.4 rebounds last season.

Lakers re-sign Medvedenko

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Free agent Slava Medvedenko signed a two-year contract with the Los

**NBA
briefs**

Angelos Lakers on Tuesday.

The 6-foot-10 forward averaged career highs in points (8.3), rebounds (5) and assists (0.8) last season. He got more playing time after power forward Karl Malone went down with a knee injury in December.

Medvedenko was part of the Lakers' NBA championship teams in 2001 and '02. He signed with the team as a free agent before the 2000-01 season.

"He's a player that should continue to improve and we expect him to be a solid contributor for years to come," Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak said.

Magic sign Augmon

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic signed free agent forward Stacy Augmon on Monday.

The 36-year-old averaged 5.8 points and 2.5 rebounds in 69 games with New Orleans last season, including 24 starts.

Augmon has averaged 8.5 points and 3.4 rebounds in a 13-year NBA career with Atlanta, Detroit, Portland and the Hornets.

Terms of the deal were not released.

U.S. relay specialist gets two-year ban

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Calvin Harrison has been suspended for two years for a second doping violation, knocking the sprinter off the U.S. Olympic team and likely forcing the United States to forfeit a relay gold medal in the world championships.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said Monday that Harrison was found guilty of using the stimulant modafinil in the U.S. track and field championships in June 2003.

The case was heard last week by a three-member arbitration panel, which rejected Harrison's appeal of the test results.

Harrison also tested positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine during the 1993 U.S. junior indoor championships and served a three-month suspension. As a repeat offender, he got a two-year ban.

Harrison's lawyer, Ed Williams, said Monday he was not sure whether he will appeal the ruling to the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Williams said he was disappointed the arbitrators did not accept his argument that the 1993 suspension should have been nullified because athletes were not accorded adequate due process at that time.

He also argued unsuccessfully before the panel that because modafinil was not named on the banned substance list in 2003, that Harrison would have had no way of knowing it was prohibited.

USADA's director of legal affairs, Travis Tygart, said modafinil — now on the banned list — was prohibited in 2003 because it was chemically related to stimulants named on the banned substance list.

"Modafinil is a banned substance and is a stimulant. You can only get it in the U.S. by prescription. It is classified by the federal government as a central nervous system stimulant," Tygart said in a telephone interview.

Athletes are generally warned not to take drugs when they compete, and they should be held accountable when they do so.

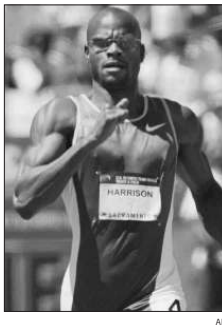
Harrison, part of the 1,600-meter gold medal relay team in the Sydney Olympics that already faces loss of its medals because of a positive drug test by Jerome Young, had been selected to the U.S. squad for Athens as part of the relay pool.

He also was on the 1,600 relay team that won a gold medal in the 2000 world championships in Paris, and that squad could also lose its medals.

All of Harrison's results from the time of the positive drug test — two months before the world championships — will be nullified. The International Association of Athletics Federations will decide whether to strip the U.S. squad of its gold and award it to silver medalist France.

Harrison ran the opening leg of the relay final in Paris. The other runners were Tyrone Washington, Derrick Brew and Young.

The 2000 Sydney relay gold medals could be forfeited because Young failed a steroid test in 1999.



Calvin Harrison was found guilty of using the stimulant modafinil in June 2003.

Daly's rebirth

Golf's endearing enigma enjoying his best season

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — Despite two majors and celebrity status around the world for his feats on and off the golf course, John Daly is used to feeling left out.

He has never played on a Ryder Cup team, despite winning the PGA Championship (1991) and British Open (1995) in Ryder Cup years. He has only played in one Tour Championship — the PGA Tour's version of the All-Star Game — because his game is not consistently among the best.

This might be his best chance to change that.

It's hard to imagine Daly doing anything quiet, especially with the raucous crowd that tags along wherever he plays, but he has managed to sneak into position for his best year on tour.

"Definitely, the Ryder Cup is on my mind," Daly said Sunday after his runner-up finish in the Buick Open moved him up to No. 20 in the standings. "I would love to be a part of that team. I feel like I could help the team the way I'm playing right now, solid as I'm hitting it. And I've got a little bit of confidence. I think that's what the captain would want."

Daly would like to finish second in the PGA Championship next week to have any chance of getting into the top 10 and earning a spot on the team.

Still, U.S. captain Hal Sutton has reason to take notice.

Not only did Daly beat a world-class field at Torrey Pines earlier this year for his first U.S. victory on the PGA Tour in 10 years, but he has shown signs of being a complete player more than any other time in his career.

His runner-up finish to Vijay Singh in the Buick Open on Sunday was his fifth top-10 finish of the year, matching a career high set in 1992. He has earned \$2.1 million — Daly had never made it into the \$828,914 in a season — to climb to 14th on the money list, moving him closer to securing a spot in the Tour Championship for the first time since his rookie season in 1991.

Remember those rounds where Daly seemed to give up?

He has only one score in the 80s this year, and that was the final round of The Players Championship, when he had to go for broke in a bid to get into the Masters (he got in, anyway).

Daly has missed at least eight cuts in each of his previous 13 years on tour. This year, the only two cuts he has missed were the Masters and the British Open.

And the latest PGA Tour statistics Monday indicate the kind of



John Daly, 36th in the world ranking and 14th on the PGA Tour money list (\$2.1 million), needs to finish second in next week's PGA Championship to have enough points to automatically qualify for the U.S. Ryder Cup team. But Hal Sutton could put him on the team as a captain's pick.

Ryder Cup points

Through Aug. 1

1. Tiger Woods	1,856,667
2. Phil Mickelson	1,755,250
3. Davis Love III	1,114,107
4. Jim Furyk	859,479
5. Kenny Perry	780,107
6. David Tom	695,125
7. Chad Campbell	691,200
8. Fred Funk	596,939
9. Steve Flesch	530,937
10. Jerry Kelly	523,625
11. Jeff Maggert	504,143
12. Scott Verplank	501,250
13. Stewart Cink	466,846
14. Jay Haas	465,917
15. Tim Herron	455,833
16. Todd Hamilton	450,000
17. Chris Riley	446,786
18. Jonathan Kaye	446,750
19. Chris DiMarco	443,048
20. John Daly	401,230

year he is having. Daly is No. 1 in the all-around ranking, a combination of eight key categories. He is third in driving distance and third in putting.

"I played with John many a times. Gosh, he hits the ball, and he chipped and putted, and his iron shots ... I don't think anyone else could have played any better than that," Singh said.

Daly took great pride winning in February at Torrey Pines, not only because he had not won in the United States since 1994, but because it was the first time he won with Tiger Woods in the field.

Equally meaningful was his runner-up finish Sunday in the Buick Open.

Daly started the final round two shots behind Singh, then erased that deficit with an explosive start that sent the pro-Daly gallery into a frenzy — birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie.

Only a player of Singh's ability could withstand that kind of pressure from Daly's game and his

crowd. Singh figured he was headed for a playoff when he missed a 6-foot par putt on the final hole but got a reprieve when Daly missed his 5-footer for par to force a playoff.

"Hal will really have to look at his performance," Singh said. "The way John was hitting the driver, gosh, it was not only long, but pretty straight, too. And he's rolling his ball. He should be considered. I don't know if he's going to be picked. There's a good chance, I think."

Daly might be the people's choice, although Sutton has other choices to consider — Jerry Kelly, Scott Verplank, Stewart Cink and Jay Haas are ahead of Daly in the standings and have proven themselves over the past two years.

If he is left off the team, it wouldn't be the first time.

His timing hasn't been the best. For 10 years, the reigning PGA champion was an automatic selection to the Ryder Cup team. That changed in 1991, the year Daly went from the ninth alternate at Crooked Stick to the ultimate Cinderella story in golf by overpowering the field to win his first major.

He had gone 26 tournaments without a top 10 when he won the '95 British Open at St. Andrews. Daly needed to finish fifth in the PGA Championship that year to earn a spot on the team. He missed the cut at Riviera, and captain Larry Wadkins went with experience by taking Fred Couples and Curtis Strange.

Daly's career has been too unpredictable to be an obvious captain's pick. He has been thinking about the Ryder Cup since winning in February, but he's not about to lobby Sutton.

"That's his decision," Daly said. "I just know if I do get picked, I would be ready. And I'd love to play."

Woods, Kuehne win Monday Night Golf

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — The "Battle at the Bridges" was supposed to be about power. Typical of any golf tournament, it came down to putting.

John Daly hit the longest drives as he and Phil Mickelson swept the four long-drive holes. Tiger Woods and Hank Kuehne made the clutch putts — four straight on the back nine at the Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe — to overcome a two-hole deficit for a 2-and-1 victory in the latest installment of Monday Night Golf.

"We got it going a little bit," Woods said. "It was nice to see a couple of putts go in."

No one was more relieved than Kuehne, who attended Oklahoma State before transferring to Southern Methodist University.

The longest hitter in golf hit the shortest drive in the six-year history of these made-for-TV events. And that's saying something considering previous participants included Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam.

It was a drop-kick, duck-hook drive on the par-5 ninth hole that went about 180 yards before it died in the rough, well short of the fairway. It was the low point on a front nine in which Kuehne hit only one fairway — with an iron.

Ultimately, all that mattered was the shortest club in their bags.

Mickelson and Daly had their chances. Lefty narrowly missed a 12-foot birdie on the par-3 11th that would have given them a 3-up lead on the back nine.

Woods, who spent most of the night hitting the ball and dragging Kuehne, birdied the 13th from about 6 feet to get them back in the match, and Kuehne took over from there.

After Mickelson's birdie rimmed around the cup and Daly's chip hit the stick and bounced away on the 14th, Kuehne holed an 8-foot putt to square the match. On the next hole, Kuehne blasted a drive that found the fairway and he followed that with a wedge to 12 feet for another birdie.

Then, he turned it over to Woods.

Woods blistered a 5-iron that stopped 25 feet away on the par-5

16th. After Mickelson chipped close, Woods holed the eagle putt for a 2-up lead, and the match ended on the next hole when Mickelson and Daly missed birdie putts.

"It's unfortunate," Mickelson said. "But boy, did they play well on the back nine."

Woods and Kuehne split \$1 million in winning, while Kuehne and Daly split \$400,000. Woods is 4-2 in the Monday Night Golf events that began in 1999.

Mickelson and Daly got a small consolation by sweeping the four long-drive holes. Daly won with drives of 319, 345 and 341 yards, and Lefty got the last one when the other three guys missed the fairway. His winning drive was a whopping 268 yards.

He and Daly won \$300,000 for the long drives, half of which goes to the charity of their choice.

"It's a joke how far he can hit it," Woods said of Daly. "He makes it look so easy. Watch the balance he has. For a guy who hits it that far, he's always in balance."

For a while, the joke was on Kuehne.

Winless on the PGA Tour, rarely in this kind of spotlight, his nerves were obvious on the front nine, and it reached rock bottom with his drive on No. 9.

"Obviously, I was extremely nervous and out of my comfort zone," Kuehne said. "All it came to a head at that beautiful ninth hole. That was honestly, probably the worst shot I've ever hit in competition."

The exclusive gallery at the Bridges — members and guests only — got an early glimpse of the power on the practice range, which was reconfigured to keep the four players from taking out windows in the pricey houses behind the back end of the range.

The landing area was turned sideways, and green islands of grass in the brown foothills were the targets. The farthest one was 125 yards. Daly, then Woods, took crushing drives that sailed over the yardage marker.

Kuehne looked nervous as he tried to figure out which driver to use. He bashed his tee shots over a fence along the right side of the range, and they never came back.

Once the match started, not much changed.



Phil Mickelson hits from the 10th tee Monday night at the Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe. Mickelson and partner John Daly lost 2 and 1.

'Boomer' Brown 'ran the tank' to NFL Hall

BY ANDY RESNIK
The Associated Press

Bob Brown went to work wearing a helmet and pads. He would have been equally comfortable carrying a hard hat and lunch bucket.

The former Eagles, Rams and Raiders offensive tackle had a working-class attitude.

Playing in the NFL "was a job and like any other job I was raised by a man who taught me that if you work for someone and you take their money, you give them an honest day's work," he said.

"I never dodged a play. I ran the tank completely dry."

His effort took him all the way to Canton, Ohio.

Brown, who made six Pro Bowls and earned All-NFL honors five times during a career that stretched from 1964 to '73, will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday along with John Elway, Barry Sanders and Carl Eller.

One of the first NFL linemen devoted to year-round weight training, the 6-foot-4 Brown was nicknamed "The Boomer" because he loved to beat up on defensive ends. The Cleveland native played at 300 pounds, but that was muscle, not flab.

"I had two options. I could either go out there and be real good and be the better, or I could go out there and be very mediocre or ordinary and be the better. I liked the role of beater better," he said in a humble voice.

Brown is so soft-spoken that it's hard to imagine he ever played in the NFL. But when it was time to go to work, he was a menace to the man across the line of scrimmage.

"He would knock out a guy every day almost at practice. He was just tough. Nobody never beat him," said Gene Young, a childhood friend and Brown's college roommate at the University of Nebraska.

Brown said his goal was to wear down his opponent physically and mentally: "If I hurt you enough, I can make you quit."

Hostile words from a 62-year-old devoted husband, father and grandfather.

While Brown was as tough as they come on the field, he never brought the brutality of his work home. He taught his son, Robert Brown Jr., about the cerebral aspects of

football and how he could apply that to his life.

"My father has always been highly disciplined, and I learned from him that in order to achieve excellence you have to be willing to sacrifice and put in the time and work extremely hard," said the younger Brown, a deputy city attorney in Los Angeles who has a green belt in karate.

Brown's wife of 39 years said their 37-year-old son has been practicing his father's Hall of Fame induction speech "since he was 12."

"The only person with a better work ethic is my son," CeCe Brown said.

But Brown Sr. still works hard.

He lifts weights three days a week at his home in Oakland, exercises every day and puts countless hours into his hobby of restoring classic cars. He used to build muscle cars, but said he can't "wrench" anymore because of surgery on his back and a hip replacement.

He just finished restoring a 1964 pearl white Cadillac convertible — with a pale green and white leather interior — that he's owned for about 30 years.

"The car is absolutely splendid," said Brown, who's planning to start a car restoration business with a friend.

Brown was the second overall selection in the 1964 NFL Draft by Philadelphia. The San Francisco took Texas Tech tight end Dave Parks at No. 1 — and the first pick of that year's AFL Draft, by Denver.

Young, a fullback who first played with Brown on their ninth grade team in Cleveland, said his best friend was nimble for a big man, which helped him kick and play linebacker and tackle for the Cornhuskers.

"As I look back, the one thing I don't realize is he could dance," Young said. "He was light on his feet."

When he got to Oakland toward the end of his career, Brown played on a line with three other future Hall of Famers: Art Shell, Gene Upshaw and Jim Otto. He retired before the Raiders started making Super Bowls and regrets not playing in the big game, but takes satisfaction knowing he gave his all on every play.

"Every week to me was a Super Bowl," he said. "I had to play my own personal Super Bowls. I was not going to take a whipping. I just wasn't."



Bucs fullback Mike Alstott takes a handoff from Brad Johnson during training camp.

Bucs' Alstott answers questions about neck

BY FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — For Mike Alstott, putting on the pads and taking the first hit was the easy part.

Talking about how it felt to be back in the mix for the first time since undergoing surgery for a career-threatening neck injury was more difficult.

The six-time Pro Bowl fullback's voice cracked with emotion Monday, but his message was strong. He's not only back, but confident he can still be a productive player for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"I've always said if I couldn't play like myself, I'd retire," Alstott said. "After today, there's no question."

Alstott has not played since getting hit on top of his head during the fourth quarter against the Indianapolis Colts last Oct. 6. He temporarily lost feeling in his legs and experienced a stinging sensation in his arms that night, and had surgery to repair a herniated disc in his neck a month later.

He vowed he would return, then rehabbed diligently during the offseason to make it happen. The 30-year-old was so excited about the first full contact drill of training camp that he dressed and made his way to the practice field more than a half-hour early.

"I guess the thing I was looking for — not for myself, but for the coaching staff — was how aggressive I was going to be. If I would be able to hit the hole and lead block, and if I was going to go in there and get some good contact," Alstott said.

"Today was a big relief off my shoulders. ... I haven't had the ultimate hit yet, but it'll come."

In eight pro seasons, Alstott has rushed for 4,607 yards and scored a team-record 59 touchdowns. The Bucs struggled in short-yardage situations without him and also missed his receiving skills.

It's unclear how a healthy Alstott would fit into coach Jon Gruden's offense this season. The 248-pound fullback has always been a better runner than blocker, and the Bucs have a deep group of running backs that includes offseason acquisition Charlie Garner and incumbent starter Michael Pittman.

With Pittman facing a three-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, there's a chance Alstott, who has averaged 3.8 yards per carry during his career, could play a bigger role in the rushing attack.

"I have never backed down from any carry, any time," Alstott said. "I would carry it 50 times a game. I've always said that."

Gruden liked what he saw Monday. "Pads, shorts, no matter how we practice, it's good to have him around," Gruden said. "He's just got to regain his rhythm as a football player."

Alstott, whose problem with his neck began when he banged his head into receiver Joe Jurevicius' knee against Carolina last Sept. 14, said he never seriously considered retirement. He and his wife had numerous discussions about his future, but the fullback's passion for the game wouldn't let him walk away.

"If it was a situation where she had the final word, I probably wouldn't be playing," Alstott said. "But she knows how much I love it. My family knows how much I love it."

Virginia Tech suspends Vick for entire year

The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick was suspended from the university for the 2004 season because of his run-ins with the law.

Virginia Tech officials said Tuesday they took the action because of Vick's convictions in May on three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor after he and two teammates gave alcohol to 14- and 15-year-old girls at the players' apartment.

Vick, 20, the younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback and former Hokies star Michael Vick, was acquitted of a charge of having sex with one of the girls and was sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$2,250.

The suspension also was based on reckless driving and marijuana possession charges filed against Vick last month after an early morning traffic stop on Interstate 64 in New Kent County. The player faced trial on those charges Tuesday.

He was clocked on radar at 86 mph, 21 mph above the speed limit, state police said. The traffic stop led to the marijuana possession charge.

Re-admittance to the university is contingent on Vick's successful completion of a drug education and counseling program.

Athletic director Jim Weaver said he told Vick any further criminal, athletic or university violations will result in Vick's permanent dismissal from Virginia Tech sports.

The suspension "is a stiff penalty," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said. "Vick won't play this year and loses that year of eligibility. If there is any more trouble, his Virginia Tech career is effectively ended."

Vick, a redshirt sophomore, was expected to challenge senior Bryan Randall for the quarterback's job this season after the two essentially shared the job last season.

Panthers' Foster content in 'good situation'

By JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — DeShaun Foster is very aware of the giant hole the Miami Dolphins have in their backfield. He just has no desire to fill it.

Foster, the Carolina Panthers' backup to Pro Bowl player Stephen Davis, is the rare player who doesn't mind waiting his turn.

Even so, when Ricky Williams abruptly retired from the Dolphins, leaving Miami without a top running back a week before training camp, Foster must have considered requesting a trade, right? Wrong.

"I'm a Carolina Panther," Foster said. "I'm here. It's a vacancy, but I'm here. Did they even go to the playoffs last year? We went to the Super Bowl. I'm in a good situation here."

Just three days into training camp, Foster is already tired of talking about his role with the Panthers.

He was a second-round draft pick out of UCLA in 2002, with the plan that he would become Carolina's featured running back. That summer, Foster was well on his way toward earning the starting job — his first carry of the preseason was a 61-yard touchdown run.

Then a knee injury wiped out his rookie season, and the Panthers signed Davis the following offseason. Although Davis came with questions about his durability, the big, bruising back raced off to a fast start in 2003 as Foster idled on the sideline.

Foster got chances here and there whenever Davis was hit with minor injuries. When his number was called, he delivered, rushing for 428 yards on 113 carries — mostly as a fill-in.

In the postseason, when Davis again fought through injuries, Foster again stepped up. He rushed for 196 yards and two touchdowns in the Panthers' playoff win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Davis-Foster tandem, with two very different running styles, gave the Panthers

a unique 1-2 punch in the backfield. Davis runs north to south, bowling over defenders. Foster is fast, with quick cuts that allow him to race all over the field.

In Davis' mind, Carolina is the only team where Foster can't be atop the depth chart.

"No question he can start for any team in the league," said Davis, who rushed for a career-high 1,444 yards last season. "That's why we're lucky. There's no drop-off when DeShaun goes in there."

Part of the reason the dueling running backs get along so well is a lack of ego and a clear definition of how both will be used this season.

"If we are trying to run the ball and set up the play-action pass, Stephen is the guy," offensive coordinator Dan Henning said. "When we want to open things up and use a guy more as a scat back, then DeShaun is the guy."

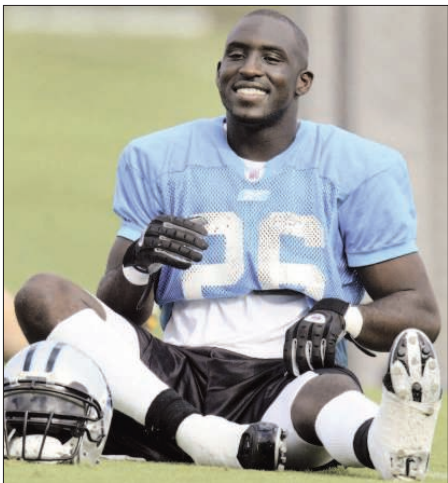
When the Panthers want to pound the ball and put a team away, Davis usually eats up the clock. But when Carolina is behind, the Panthers will likely have Foster on the field with three wide receivers.

Setting up clear roles for each running back eliminates any potential controversy.

"In our offensive system, I don't view it as there being a No. 1 or a No. 2 guy," Davis said. "When you're on the field, you're the guy. There is no controversy here, and I think that shows how professional we are."

Foster is also content to sit back and absorb as much as he can from Davis, who has mentored him as a "big brother would," Foster said. Davis has taught Foster patience and how to wait for holes to open rather than forcing things.

Henning has said he's never heard Foster complain, or ask for a bigger role. But Foster shouldn't worry, his time is coming. The Panthers have until the end of the 2004 season to decide if Foster is their back of the future. That's when Foster becomes an unrestricted free agent, and



Though he could start for some NFL teams rather than back up Stephen Davis, DeShaun Foster, above, is content to wait his turn. "I'm a Carolina Panther," he said.

Davis will be 32.

"I feel like I am being groomed right now," Foster said. "And when I get a shot,

I'm going to take it. But right now it is Stephen's job to carry the load. I'm fine with that."

CB Hall gets Falcons-record bonus

The Associated Press

After Larry Fitzgerald signed a rich contract to catch passes, DeAngelo Hall is ready to break them up.

Fitzgerald, the third overall pick in the NFL Draft and first receiver chosen, signed one of the most lucrative rookie contracts in NFL history on Monday. He planned to practice Tuesday with the Arizona Cardinals.

Hall, selected eighth overall by Atlanta, was set to report to training camp Tuesday after signing terms on a contract that could include the largest signing bonus in franchise history.

In the third week of the NFL season, the two rich rookies could meet when the Cardinals visit the Falcons.

Hall, from Virginia Tech, will get a larger bonus than former college teammate Michael Vick received from Atlanta, according to a source familiar with the contract who requested anonymity. Hall will collect between \$12 million and \$13 million in guaranteed money up front. Vick's six-year, \$62 million contract included \$11 million in guaranteed bonuses.

Falcons coach Jim Mora is eager to get Hall into action.

"He's missing repetitions on the field," Mora said. "He's miss-



ing the chance to watch himself do it on film and evaluate himself that way."

Three of the top 11 draft picks — quarterback Philip Rivers (No. 4, San Diego), tight end Kellen Winslow (No. 6, Cleveland) and cornerback Ben Roethlisberger (No. 11, Pittsburgh) have not reached contract terms. In all, six first-rounders still have not agreed to terms.

Bucs lose WR Jurevicius indefinitely with back injury

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Joe Jurevicius had a major setback in his bid to return from a serious knee injury when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers revealed on Monday that the receiver now needs surgery to repair a herniated disc in his back.

"Obviously it's frustrating," coach Jon Gruden said Monday. "But it's been frustrating for some time. Let's get him right. We'll have the back surgically fixed and hopefully he can return some time soon."

Jurevicius, one of the key components of the Bucs' Super Bowl run in 2002, missed most of last season after tearing the medial

collateral ligament in his right knee against Carolina last Sept. 14.

Although General Manager Bruce Allen suggested there is a chance Jurevicius could return before the start of the regular season, Gruden said it's too soon to tell how long the seventh-year pro will be out.

"It could be a couple of weeks, it could be a couple of months, it could be the season, I don't know," Gruden said. "I don't want to speculate until I get all the facts."

Jurevicius will have surgery Tuesday in Los Angeles. He was placed on the active non-football injury list last week.

Fats place DL Bailey on IR

FOXBORO, Mass. — Patriots defensive lineman Rodney Bailey is out for the season after undergoing surgery on his torn Achilles' tendon.

Bailey, who was placed on injured reserve Monday, is expected to make a full recovery. The team signed Bailey, 24, as a restricted free agent in March.

The 6-foot-3-inch, 305-pound Bailey was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the sixth round of the 2001 draft. During his first three seasons, he played in every game of one game as a rookie in 2001. He has 39 career tackles, including 9½ sacks.

BIG, FROM BACK PAGE

Lesnar insists this isn't a publicity stunt.

"Football is something he's always wanted to pursue," said Ed Hitchcock, one of Lesnar's agents.

The tour kept Lesnar on the road about 280 days a year, taking him to all 50 states and 30 countries. Staying at home in the Midwest and being a father to his 2-year-old daughter are more important to him now, though, than the millions he left on the table.

"I'm just a regular guy," he said. "Money's just money. I've been a poor dairy farmer in western South Dakota, and I've been a millionaire. I wasn't any happier."

Lesnar left the tour in March to prepare for football. He worked trainers at the Athletics Performance Institute — a removed facility in Arizona that attracts the world's elite — with his strength and speed. A scary motorcycle accident in April, however, left him with a broken jaw, a broken hand, a bruised pelvis and a pulled groin and halted progress.

Lesnar was invited to work out for the Vikings in June, once he was fully healed. A second look last week landed him a contract for the league minimum.

That's only if he makes the

team, of course, which is a huge long shot — though a new rule allowing clubs to keep eight players on their practice squads this season works in his favor.

Vikings defensive line coach Brian Baker remains skeptical, yet supportive.

"Right now we're just trying to get him to the point here he can survive," Baker said. "He's getting better at things, but the things he's getting better at are basically remedial things."

The Vikings held their first full-pad practice Monday morning, when Lesnar got his first real taste of pro football. Playing with the third-string defense under team drills, his inexperience clearly showed. Lesnar was stood up at the line and pushed down the field several times. He did manage to make a tackle.

"He got his first kick today," Tice said. "He's growing up some."

Though claiming his first true football experience in nine years "felt natural," Lesnar acknowledged being "a little lost."

"It's been a long time since I've done that," Lesnar said.

"You've got to start somewhere."

"This morning, I'm that much better than I was yesterday," he said, "and that's what I'm looking for."

SPORTS



Virginia Tech suspends QB Vick from school for 2004 season because of legal troubles, Page 34



Minnesota Vikings' Chris Hovan, left, shares pointers with former professional wrestler Brock Lesnar during workouts Saturday in Mankato, Minn. Lesnar, who last played football in high school, left World Wrestling Entertainment and signed for the league minimum to pursue an NFL career.



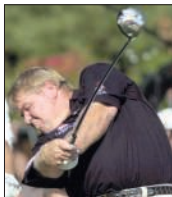
McCarty's homer backs Wakefield in Red Sox's win over Devil Rays

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Second-rounder Foster willing to wait his turn in Panthers' backfield

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Daly's best season might finally be good enough for Ryder Cup

Page 33



Next big thing?

Lesnar leaves professional wrestling, millions of dollars for shot at NFL

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

The money, glamour and perks provided by Brock Lesnar's lifestyle as a professional wrestler just weren't bringing him happiness, so he decided to leave.

Now the former World Wrestling Entertainment champion who performed with the moniker "The Next Big Thing" is trying to make a new name for himself — in the NFL. Lesnar hasn't played football since 1995, when he was a high school senior in Webster, S.D. But his brawn, quickness and tenacity were enough to convince the Minnesota Vikings he was worth signing and bringing to training camp as a defensive tackle.

"All I can ask for is the opportunity," said Lesnar, a one-time NCAA heavyweight wrestling champion at Minnesota who is listed at 6 feet 3 and 290 pounds. "I know I'm a quick learner, and I know I'm coachable."

He'll have to be. Bodyslams aren't allowed, and nobody wears a feather boa. Success, or lack thereof, is determined solely by his dis-

tance from the ball.

"He's got a long way to go before his form is any good," coach Mike Tice said. "We're excited to see his work ethic ... but he's got a long road to haul."

Lesnar realizes that.

"I just know I'm athletic," he said. "I've loved football since I was a young kid. I'm not going to make any expectations. ... I just want to do well."

So does everyone else, it seems.

"He's a great guy, a great athlete," WWE spokesman Gary Davis said. "He made his mark and had quite an accomplished run. Who knows? Once he has pursued his dream of the NFL, maybe he'll want to do something with the WWE again."

"We're very excited for him."

Teammates, too, are embracing Lesnar's tryout — rather than rolling their eyes.

"Brock is a guy with great ambition," said tackle Chris Hovan, who is rooming with Lesnar during camp. "Any chance he needs to get better, I'll help."

SEE BIG ON PAGE 35



Lesnar, known as "The Next Big Thing" in WWE, won an NCAA wrestling title.

AP